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WELCOME

Well, Royal Mail certainly seemed to get the national press coverage it was hoping for when it unveiled its latest blockbuster stamp issue, featuring the Star Wars films (see page 22).

'Absolutely Force class,' trumpeted the *Daily Mirror*. 'Out of this world,' claimed the *Radio Times*. 'Mail the Force be with you,' said various other newspapers in unison. 'Star Wars fans and stamp collectors are two different grades of geek,' opined one reviews website!

The film buffs, however, are going to be very much happier about this development than philatelists. It's hard for us to get our heads around the fact that Britain's biggest ever regular stamp issue (excluding the London 2012 Olympics miniature sheet series) is being devoted to celebrating what is essentially an American film franchise.

When I heard the news, I cast my mind back to the battle that was raging over the future of the stamp programme exactly 50 years ago (as related in last month's feature on the 1965 Battle of Britain issue), the echoes of which are extremely poignant.

The Postmaster General, Tony Benn, was arguing that stamps should be used more often, more pictorially and in a more modern way, to highlight British culture and achievement. He was right.

On the other hand, the Chairman of the Stamp Advisory Committee, Sir Kenneth Clark, was warning that this approach would lead to cigarette-card triviality and banality. He was right too.

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Win a Long To Reign Over Us presentation pack! Or a copy of our GB price guide!
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India's withdrawal of definitives condemned as a political decision

The Government of India's decision to withdraw two definitive stamps was branded a political move by the opposition Congress party, and even provoked street protests.

Withdrawing the stamps honouring former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, which have been in use for more than six years, was slammed as current Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'poisonous attempt at rewriting India's legacy of service and sacrifice'.

The stamps were issued in December 2008 as part of the Builders of Modern India series. This is to be replaced with a Makers of India series, although current stamps honouring other key figures such as Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, are being retained.

Czech stamp honours Sir Nicholas Winton

Days after Royal Mail said it would commemorate the British humanitarian Sir Nicholas Winton in 2016, the Czech Republic issued a stamp in his honour.

It was while serving as a diplomat in Prague, the capital of what was then Czechoslovakia, that Winton organised the mass evacuation of Jewish children to Britain to save them from being sent to Nazi concentration camps at the outbreak of World War II in 1939.

Sir Nicholas returned to Prague in 2014 to receive the country's highest award, the Order of the White Lion, before his death earlier this year at the age of 106.

The single 13k stamp carries a portrait of Winton in old age, and shows a line of refugee children waiting to board a train.

Great Britain's stamp is expected to appear in Spring.

Scandinavia catalogue now in two parts

Swedish catalogue publisher Facit has divided its Scandinavia specialised catalogue in two, to make it more manageable.

The Facit Special catalogue is being replaced for 2016 by the Facit Special Classic catalogue, covering all Nordic stamps up to 1950, and the Facit Norden catalogue, concentrating on stamps from 1951 onwards (with a simplified listing of earlier issues).

The new volumes were scheduled for release in September, at 368 pages and 864 pages respectively, and at prices of 350k (about £28) and 450k (about £35) respectively.

For more details visit www.facit.se

Sensual stamps have Irish eyes smiling

Ireland has issued a set of stamps celebrating the five human senses, incorporating some innovative production techniques.

The 70c Taste design has strawberry-flavoured gum applied to the back of the stamp, the €1.05 Touch design uses thermochromic ink, so that the illustration of a hand changes colour when touched, and the €1.25 Sight design is printed on transparent paper so you can see through it.

The €1.70 Hearing stamp creates a sound when you rub its surface, and the €2.80 Smell stamp emits a mint fragrance.

Ascension celebrates its bicentenary

Ascension Island is marking the bicentenary of its settlement with an attractive set of four stamps on October 22.

Two of the designs show King George III, the monarch in whose name the island was claimed for Britain, and Queen Elizabeth II, both after painted portraits. The other two show Ascension's flag and its coat of arms, adopted as recently as 2012.

The Atlantic island was discovered by the Portuguese explorer João da Nova in 1501, but remained uninhabited until October 1815, when the Royal Navy established a garrison to ensure that it could not be used as a base for a mission to rescue Napoleon Bonaparte, who had been sent into exile on St Helena.

Ascension later became a supplies station for ships engaged in stopping the slave trade on the west coast of Africa in the 19th century, a relay station for telegraph and radio services in the 20th century, and a military staging post vital to the reconquest of the Falkland Islands after its invasion in 1982.

Planning underway for London 2020 philatelic exhibition

Britain's long-established traditional of hosting a major international stamp exhibition once every 10 years looks set to continue, with plans already underway for an event running from May 2-9, 2020.

The chosen venue is once again the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, the established home of the twice-yearly Stampex event which also accommodated the London 2010 and Europhilex 2015 exhibitions.

The competitive element will include the traditional, postal history, thematic, revenue, postal stationery, aerophilately, open, literature and youth classes, with the exhibits being shown for four days each to make maximum use of the available frames.

The Chairman of the Organising Committee is Frank Walton, who is also the President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and the event has the support of the Philatelic Traders' Society, which is co-ordinating booth sales.

A website is being developed at www.london 2020.co

Charlie Brown for Christmas

The United States' Christmas stamps this year will feature characters from Charles Schulz's famous *Peanuts* comic strip, including Charlie Brown and Snoopy.

The stamp issue marks the 50th anniversary of the first animated film version appearing on American television in December 1965.

NEWS IN BRIEF

> Gold medal-winners at Autumn Stampex were Arthur Woo's exhibit of the Guatemala 1879-1881 'Small Quetzal' issue and Hugh Osborne's exhibit of South Georgia postal history 1909-1954.

> After an enforced change of venue, the Salisbury Stamp Show is rebranding itself as the Southern England Stamp Show. It will take place at Farnborough in Hampshire in March. Visit www.southernengland stampshow.com

> The Gibraltar, Guernsey and Jersey stamps vended by Post & Go machines at Autumn Stampex had an overprint including 'HM The Queen Longest Reign'.

> Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society is mounting an 18-frame public display at Bromley Central Library from October 15-27, to demonstrate the various different ways of collecting.

> In response to the cancellation of the biennial Paris Stamp Show for 2016, the Federation of French Philatelic Associations has announced a new event, Paris Philex, which will take place from May 19-22 at Porte de Versailles.

> Long-standing *Stamp Magazine* contributor Francis Kiddle has reluctantly had to bring down the curtain on the monthly Cinderella Corner feature due to ill health. We would like to thank him and his brother Charles for their dedication over the past 16 years.

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SPECIAL #278
After the death of King George V a new definitive issue was needed. Five new high values were issued in 1938 (SG#363-367). The designs depict scenes and buildings across Canada, including two harbours some six thousand kilometres apart - Halifax and Vancouver. I can supply a superb unmounted mint set for just £99.95.

SPECIAL #279
The events of World War II influenced this set from 1942. The designs show wartime themes and the King is dressed in the various uniforms of the military. Here is the complete set of fourteen (SG#375-388). Price for a superb unmounted mint set of the War Issue is just £79.95.

SPECIAL #280
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By Andrew McGavin, Managing Director, Universal Philatelic Auctions (UPA)

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2. **Stamp Industry's BIGGEST problem. ...** twenty years ago I started to ponder upon what is the biggest problem faced by the average stamp dealer? The answer came back loud and clear. The biggest problem faced by a stamp dealer is not what sells ... but **what does not sell.** This is the reason why most stamp dealers have lots of unsold stock you have seen time and time again – worse still this is what prevents that dealer from buying new stock to offer you.

3. **Surface Sell.** There is an actual name for this – it is called 'surface sell' – good material 'floats' on the surface and sells. Less desirable stock sinks so that unless a dealer pays almost nothing to replace his stock then the profit in the business becomes stagnant and bound in less saleable stock. If only that dealer could move this stock he would have more money to invest in new stock to offer to you.

4. **Cover-up.** Twenty years ago almost the entire stamp industry spent its time disguising what did not sell – in those days so pernicious were 'unsolds' that it was common practice for one auction house to sell batches of 'unsolds' to another auction where the new auction could present them to (hopefully) different collectors as new lots. 'Passing the Philatelic Parcel' was common practice.

5. **E-Bay.** Today the philatelic world is almost unrecognisably different. In large part courtesy of the internet. How things have changed. Few 'pass the parcel'. Really active Dealers - these days they **also** sell on eBay - large lots, small lots, all manner of stamps, covers, down to fakes and forgeries – today's equivalent of the Wild West – there's philatelic 'gold' to be mined in those hills ... but Boy – you have to work to find it and sadly 'all that glistens is not gold' – you pays your money and you takes your chance often with little support or recourse. UPA too sells surpluses on eBay backed by support and our guarantee – access eBay links via www.upastampauctions.co.uk

Continued on page 27...

CHINA 1923
Inverted surcharge

Cherrystone's worldwide rarities auction featured a China error which is known as one of the 'Four Treasures of the Republic': the 3c blue-green Junk definitive (from the first Peking printing of 1915) with the 1923 2c surcharge in red inverted.

It is believed that fewer than 20 such errors survive, and contemporary reports show that 13 were bought together from the post office at the port of Wanhsien (Wanzhou) in July 1924, by an officer on a French naval vessel.

He franked two covers to himself, and sold ten mint stamps to a dealer.

SOLD BY CHERRYSTONE £84,318

US 1871
$500 revenue

The key item in a collection of United States revenues is widely considered to be the 1871 $500 documentary revenue stamp, from the second issue — nicknamed the 'Persian rug' thanks to its elongated rectangular format, extremely elaborate engine-turned design and three-colour printing.

The copy sold at Harmer-Schau's auction was especially desirable because it was cancelled very lightly with a circular handstamp, and had no manuscript cancellation at all.

SOLD BY HARMER-SCHAU £10,365

INDIA 1836
Very rare Waghorn cachet

The centrepiece of the Michael Manning collection of Indian postal history, sold by Cavendish, was a very rare variety of the pre-stamp mail delivered to Britain by the overland route via the postal agency run by Thomas Waghorn.

Sent from Calcutta to Glasgow on December 5, 1836, it is one of only two covers known with the 'Care of Mr Waghorn/Cossier' cachet, the other being in an institutional collection. Cossier (or Cosseir) is a port on the Red Sea coast of Egypt, now known as Al-Qusayr.

The entire bears many other postal markings, including a Calcutta post paid handstamp, transit datestamps of Madras and Marseille, the double-oval cachet of the forwarding agent Robert Gower & Co, and a very fine 'Purifié Lazaret Marseille' disinfection backstamp; there are four tiny disinfection slits made through the letter.

SOLD BY CAVENDISH £34,000

MALTA 1855
Unusual naval cancellation

The top-selling item in Cavendish's sale of the superb François Piat Dewavrin collection of Crimean War postal history was this cover from a British naval ship off Malta to Scotland, with a very rare cancellation.

Sent on February 7, 1855, by a Lance Corporal of the 93rd Highlanders, its perforated 1d red (paying the concession rate for servicemen), was franked with the Malta oval-framed 'P' postmark, of which there is only one other example known on cover.

The cancellation is a forerunner of the more common grid cancellation used in Malta for naval mail from April 1855 onwards. Remarkably, it drove the realisation up to more than ten times the pre-sale estimate for this lot.

SOLD BY CAVENDISH £11,000

CHINA 1915
$2 invert

Another gem of early modern China which came up in Cherrystone's sale was a mint example of the 1915 $2 blue and black with inverted vignette, showing the Hall of Classics upside-down in the frame.

It is thought that around 30 copies of this exist, making this another of the great rarities of the Republic period.

The Hall of Classics design was part of the same definitive series as the Junk design. This error emanates from the first Peking printing, after the earliest stamps had been printed in London by Waterlow.

SOLD BY CHERRYSTONE £64,860

NEW ZEALAND 1858
1s bisect on cover

Mowbray Collectables' auction included one of the eight covers which were originally part of the 'Mottram correspondence', all posted from Otago to London and franked with bisected stamps from New Zealand's first issue.

The 1s green, which had been recess-printed by Perkins Bacon in London from 1855, was vertically bisected between March 1857 and August 1859, following a reduction in the ½oz letter rate to Great Britain. This particular cover was posted on February 23, 1858, and arrived in London on July 21.

Bisect covers are regarded among the gems of classic New Zealand philately. As with the other seven covers from the Mottram correspondence, this stamp has very obviously been cut out and subsequently replaced, but the rarity of these items is such that they can be relied upon to fetch high prices when they come up for sale.

SOLD BY MOWBRAY £9,812

UNITED STATES 1918
Error of value in block used on cover

Regency-Superior's auction included a registered cover which, although philatelic, is of more than usual importance because it includes a sought-after error.

Posted by the well-known New Jersey stamp dealer A C Roessler in 1918, it is franked with a block of nine United States definitives, of which eight are the standard 2c rose portraying George Washington but the central stamp has the 5c denomination in error.

All nine stamps are cancelled with the East Orange oval postmark, lightly applied in accordance with the dealer's stated request.

The 5c value was normally printed in blue.

SOLD BY REGENCY-SUPERIOR £1,085

Edited by Adrian Keppel. Prices quoted exclude buyer's premiums

AUSTRALIA 1927
Unique first day cover

Offered for sale at Phoenix's auction in Melbourne was what is thought to be the only surviving first day cover of Australia's 1927 Opening of Parliament House in Canberra stamp with 'OS' perforated initials.

The pair of the 1½d value are cancelled with a 'Parliament House, Canberra' postmark dated May 9, 1927.

Official stamps with 'OS' perfins were distributed only to federal members of the parliament, and it appears that one of them, Major Sir John Gellibrand, used them to sent this cover home to his wife in Tasmania.

SOLD BY PHOENIX £2,902

BAHAMAS 1917
Double variety

Warwick & Warwick's latest auction had a large section of Bahamas, the highlight being a stamp showing not one but two different varieties.

The Special Delivery 5d value (a 1916-17 overprint on the 1901-03 black and red definitive illustrating the Queen's Staircase in Nassau), had its overprint inverted as well as showing the 'double tree trunk' constant variety.

Since it is believed that only two sheets were produced with the overprint inverted, it follows that only two examples can exist with both varieties.

Three printings of the Special Delivery stamps can be distinguished, and it is thought that all varieties occurred only on the third printing, probably in March 1917.

SOLD BY WARWICK & WARWICK £945

WESTERN AUSTRALIA 1897
Lake Lefroy Cycle Mail 6d

Amongst a wonderful selection of private carrier stamps sold by Phoenix was a used example of a Lake Lefroy Goldfield Cycle Mail 6d red on green from Western Australia in 1897.

One of the Black Swan designs issued by the firm of Hilier & Maskell to pay for mail carried between the mining settlements of Lake Lefroy, Coolgardie and Kalgoorie, from February to June 1897 only, this particular copy had a neat 'H&M' manuscript cancellation in red.

SOLD BY PHOENIX £2,321

TIBET 1904
Indian cancels

Mowbray Collectables' sale included a selection of the stamps of India, mostly on piece, postmarked in Tibet in 1904 on the day the British military expedition led by Lieutenant Colonel Francis Younghusband resulted in the signing of the Treaty of Lhasa.

A postal agency was opened in the Tibetan capital, where stamps were postmarked either 'Lahssa' or 'Lhassa'.

Mostly these were low values, but this particular lot included high values as well, such as the illustrated Queen Victoria 5r ultramatine and violet.

The Treaty was signed on September 7, 1904, as the Younghusband expedition sought to establish British influence in the country before Russia could do so.

SOLD BY MOWBRAY £720

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GB QUEEN VICTORIA

SG		Used
96/7	6d Plate 5	9.75
	Plate 6	17.50
98	9d Plate 4	90.00
98a	9d Thick ppr	110.00
101	1s Plate 4	17.50
101b	1s Thick ppr	27.50
	Plate 5	7.50
	Plate 6	7.50
	Plate 7	7.50
	Plate 8	7.50
	Plate 9	7.50
	Plate 10	12.50
	Set plates 4-10	65.00
104	6d lilac	10.00
105	6d dp lilac	11.50
106	6d purple	13.50
107	6d brt violet	12.00
108	6d dull violet	10.00
109	6m m've pl.8	9.50
	Plate 9	9.50
104/9	One of each Plates 6, 8, 9	27.00
110	9d straw	32.50
111	9d pale straw	32.50
112	10d red – brn	45.00
113	10d pale	47.50
114	10d deep	55.00
115/7	1s P4	7.50
	P5	7.00
	P6	7.00
	P7	15.00
	Set plates 4-7	35.00
118	2s dull blue	20.00
119	2s deep blue	20.00
120	2s pale blue	30.00
122	6d dp chest	10.00
122a	6d chestnut	8.00
122b	6d pale ch.	8.00
123	6d buff Pl.11	12.50
	Pl.12	35.00
125	6d. grey	25.00
138	2½d blue ppr	17.50
139	2½d Plate 1	10.00
	Plate 2	10.00
	Plate 3	17.50
	Set. Plates 1-3	35.00
141	2½d. Plate 3	17.00
	Plate 4	5.25
	Plate 5	5.25
	Plate 6	5.25
	Plate 7	5.25
	Plate 8	5.25
	Plate 9	5.25
	Plate 10	7.50
	Plate 11	5.25
	Plate 12	5.25
	Plate 13	5.25
	Plate 14	5.25
	Plate 15	5.25
	Plate 16	5.25
	Plate 17	47.50
	Set Plates 3-17	130.00
142	2½d Plate 17	8.00
	Plate 18	7.00
	Plate 19	5.25
	Plate 20	5.25
	Set. Plates 17-20	23.50
143-4	3d Plate 11	6.50
	Plate 12	6.50
	Plate 13	6.50
	Plate 14	6.50
	Plate 15	6.50
	Plate 16	6.50
	Plate 17	6.50
	Plate 18	6.50
	Plate 19	6.50
	Plate 20	12.50
	Set. Plates 11-20	65.00
146-7	6d. Plate 13	7.50
	Plate 14	7.50
	Plate 15	7.50
	Plate 16	7.50
	Plate 17	23.50
	Set. Plates 13-17	49.50
148-50	1s. Plate 8	17.50
	Plate 9	17.50
	Plate 10	19.50
	Plate 11	17.50
	Plate 12	10.00
	Plate 13	10.00
	Set. Plates 8-13	87.50
151	1s Plate 13	90.00
152	4d vermillion	52.50
153	4d Plate 15	32.00
	Plate 16	30.00
154	4d grey-brown	80.00
156	8d. orange	35.00
157	2 1/2d Plate 21	5.00
	Plate 22	4.00
	Plate 23	4.50
	Set. Plates 21-23	12.00
158	3d Plate 20	27.50
	Plate 21	15.00
159	3d. on 3d.	17.50
160	4d. Plate 17	7.50
	Plate 18	7.50
161	6d Plate 17	11.50
	Plate 18	11.50
162	6d. on 6d.	16.50
163	1s Plate 13	17.50
	Plate 14	18.50
170	1d – 14 dots	2.75
SG172	1d – 16 dots	.05
1880		
164	½d	1.50
165	½d	1.50
166	1d	1.00
167	1½d	6.00
168	2d	9.75
168a	2d	10.00
169	5d	13.50
Set of five		31.25
1884		Used
187	½d	1.50
188	1½d	7.50
189	2d	10.00
190	2½d	1.75
191	3d	12.50
192	4d	30.00
193	5d	25.00
194	6d	32.50
195	9d	90.00
196	1s	37.50
Set of 10		240.00
1887		M/Mint / Used
197	½d	.60 / .30
197e	½d	.75 / .40
198	1½d	5.00 / 1.00
200	2d	7.00 / 4.00
201	2½d	6.00 / .90
202	3d	8.00 / 1.00
203	3d	8.00 / 1.00
205	4d	9.50 / 5.00
205a	4d	9.75 / 5.00
206	4½d	3.50 / 9.50
207	5d	175.00 / 15.00
207a	5d	12.50 / 3.75
208	6d	9.00 / 3.50
208a	6d	9.00 / 3.75
209	9d	23.50 / 10.00
210	10d	20.00 / 12.50
210a	10d	135.00 / 30.00
211	1s	90.00 / 19.50
213	½d	.60 / .50
214	1s	27.50 / 30.00
Set of 10		220.00 / 97.50
High Vals		Used
126/7	5s Plate 1	85.00
	Plate 2	95.00
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180/1	5s	22.50
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Also available:
First Day Cover: £5.19
Presentation Pack: £4.89

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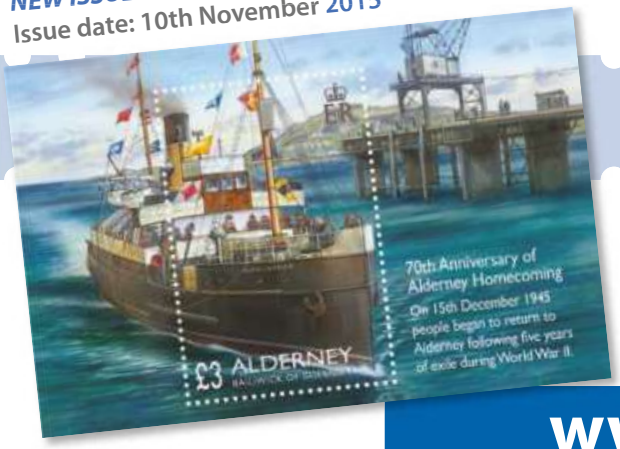
Issue date: 10th November 2015



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GUERNSEY POST

NEW ISSUE

Happy and glorious, long to reign over us

Royal Mail issued a five-stamp miniature sheet entitled Long To Reign Over Us on September 9, the day Queen Elizabeth II became the longest-reigning monarch in British history, surpassing Queen Victoria's reign of 63 years and 216 days.

One of the stamps is the new-coloured 1st class Machin definitive (October issue, page 22), and the miniature sheet is the only source of this design in gummed form.

The other four are larger-format commemoratives featuring royal portraiture and insignia. Unconventionally, they also feature the Machin head and security overlay text in iridescent ink; on all five designs, this repeats the phrase 'Long To Reign Over Us'.

London design agency Sedley Place created the issue, and it was printed by ISP using a mix of processes: the Machin definitive is in gravure, but the other stamps are in intaglio.

1st class WYON'S CITY MEDAL

William Wyon's City Medal was designed to commemorate Queen Victoria's first visit to the City of London after her accession in 1837. Based on a sketch made three years earlier, when she was just 15 years old, the portrait was adapted for use on the Penny Black in 1840, and remained in use on stamps until her death in 1901.

1st class WILDING PORTRAIT

Dorothy Wilding's three-quarter profile photograph of Queen Elizabeth II was one of a series taken in February 1952, shortly after her accession. It was used on all British postage stamps from 1952-66.

1st class MACHIN DEFINITIVE

The long-standing Machin definitive, featuring the iconic profile of Queen Elizabeth II by sculptor Arnold Machin, has been in constant use since 1967. Its latest incarnation has a new colour, amethyst purple, which replace reds for the 1st class value for a 12-month period.

£1.52 BADGE OF THE HOUSE OF WINDSOR

Approved by King George VI this Badge has been in use since 1938. It features a depiction of the Round Tower of Windsor Castle, flying the Royal Standard, framed by the branches of an oak tree and surmounted by the Imperial Crown.

£1.52 THE QUEEN'S PERSONAL FLAG

Created at her request in 1960, the Queen's Personal Flag has an 'E', surmounted by a crown, surrounded by a garland of roses, and is usually seen in gold on a blue ground. Symbolising her role as Head of the Commonwealth, it is commonly flown on buildings, ships, cars or aircraft in which she is staying or travelling.

PRICES

Miniature sheet	£4.93
Press sheet	£21.70
Presentation pack	£5.45
Stamp cards	£2.70
First day cover (serviced)	£6.40
First day cover (unserviced)	£6.40
Coin covers	£17.50

OTHER PRODUCTS

Uncut press sheets of four miniature sheets are available, in an individually numbered limited edition of 2,015.

The presentation pack features biographical details about the Queen and other long-reigning British monarchs, written by historian Andrew Roberts, as well as background information behind the images that appear on the stamps.

Serviced and unserviced first day covers are offered, along with a range of coin covers and other souvenirs.

VERDICT

COMMEMORATIVE WORTH ★★★★★
Not an anniversary as such, but a landmark that was hard to ignore

QUALITY OF DESIGN ★★☆☆☆
The stamps are interesting rather than dynamic, with an unconventional use of the Machin head

WOW FACTOR ★★☆☆☆
The public are unlikely to see the commemoratives in use, but should notice the special definitive issue

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NEW ISSUE

The force is with... a foreign film franchise

Royal Mail will issue a set of 12 counter sheet stamps and a six-stamp miniature sheet on October 20 to celebrate the upcoming release of the new movie, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

Printed in se-tenant strips of six, the gummed sheet stamps will depict nine classic characters from the earlier films in the series, along with three new characters from the forthcoming instalment, which is due to open in UK cinemas on December 17.

Illustrated by British artist Malcolm Tween, each stamp will also feature a secondary character or scene created specially for the issue.

The self-adhesive miniature sheet, comprising stamps in varying formats, will feature vehicles and spaceships from the series.

All the stamps are 1st class values, and the style of the '1st' inscription on each of them replicates the typeface used for the film titles. The miniature sheet border also carries the Star Wars logo.

Royal Mail says the stamps celebrate the British expertise behind the Star Wars films, as every one was made with a partly British cast and crew, employing British set design, costume design and cinematography. The new film was predominantly shot at Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire, with special effects created by Industrial Light & Magic in London.

However, this is not a British franchise. The six existing movies — comprising the original trilogy of 1977, 1980 and 1983, and the 'prequel' trilogy of 1999, 2002 and 2005 — were made by an American company, Lucasfilm, which has since been purchased by another American company, Disney.

This is the biggest regular set of stamps ever issued by Great Britain, replacing the 16-stamp Doctor Who set of 2013.

The sheet stamps were designed by Interabang and the miniature sheet by GBH. The whole issue was printed in litho by ISP.

1st class DARTH VADER

Played by the British actor David Prowse but voiced by the American James Earl Jones , Darth Vader is the name adopted by the Jedi knight Anakin Skywalker after he was seduced to the dark side and became a Sith Lord. He is pictured in combat with Luke Skywalker.

1st class YODA

An animated character voiced by the British-American Frank Oz, Yoda trained many Jedi knights and uses his vast wisdom to fight the Empire. He is pictured advising Luke Skywalker.

1st class OBI-WAN KENOBI
Played by the late British actor Alec Guinness, Obi-Wan Kenobi was the Jedi master who initiated Luke Skywalker into the ways of the Force. He is pictured fighting Darth Vader.

1st class STORMTROOPER
Played by various actors, the white-armoured stormtroopers of the Empire are clones of the legendary warrior Jango Fett. They are pictured following Darth Vader.

1st class HAN SOLO
Played by the American actor Harrison Ford, Han Solo is a smuggler who was persuaded to join the Rebel Alliance against the Empire. He is pictured with his co-pilot Chewbacca.

1st class REY
Played by the British actress Daisy Ridley, Rey is one of the new characters in *The Force Awakens*. She is pictured with the robot BB8.

1st class PRINCESS LEIA
Played by the American actress Carrie Fisher, Princess Leia becomes a leader of the Rebel Alliance after the Empire destroys her home planet. She is pictured with the droids R2D2 and C-3PO.

PRICES

Set of 12 stamps	£7.56
Miniature sheet	£3.78
Presentation pack	£12.35
Stamp cards	£8.55
First day cover (stamps)	£9.55
First day cover (mini sheet)	£5.02
Medal cover	£15.50

1st class THE EMPEROR
Played by the British actor Ian McDiarmid, the Emperor Palpatine appears to be a benign politician until his secret identity as a Sith Lord is revealed and he takes control of the galaxy. He is pictured with Anakin Skywalker.

1st class LUKE SKYWALKER
Played by the American actor Mark Hamill, Luke Skywalker is the son Anakin Skywalker didn't know he had, who becomes a Jedi knight. He is pictured with his mentor Obi-Wan Kenobi.

1st class BOBA FETT
Played by various actors, Boba Fett is a genetic clone of his father, Jango Fett, and one of the most feared bounty-hunters in the galaxy. He is pictured with his fellow bounty-hunters Dengar, IG-88 and Bossk.

1st class FINN
Played by the British actor John Boyega, Finn is another of the new characters in *The Force Awakens*. He is pictured with Rey.

1st class KYLO REN
Played by the American actor Adam Driver, Kylo Ren is a new symbol of terror in *The Force Awakens*. He is pictured with Captain Phasma and stormtroopers.

MINATURE SHEET

1st class X-WING STARFIGHTER
The nimble Incom T-65 X-Wing starfighter is used by the Rebel Alliance in its fight against the Empire.

1st class X-WING STARFIGHTERS
The uprated Incom T-70 X-Wing starfighter is the key combat craft of the Resistance forces in their fight against the First Order.

1st class TIE FIGHTERS
Carried aboard Imperial star destroyers and battle stations, single-seater TIE fighters are ideal for fast-paced dogfights.

1st class TIE FIGHTERS
Only the elite of the First Order pilots have access to these two-seater TIE fighters.

1st class AT-AT WALKERS
All Terrain Armored Transport walkers are four-legged transport and combat vehicles used by Imperial ground forces.

1st class MILLENNIUM FALCON
An extensively-modified freighter, the Millennium Falcon is 'the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy'.

OTHER PRODUCTS
The presentation pack has plot summaries of the films along with facts and figures to appeal to Star Wars fans.

Some of the sheet stamps are also available from philatelic outlets in 'stamp sets' of 10 of the same design.

As well as stamps cards and two conventional first day covers, there is a choice of three medal covers.

VERDICT

COMMEMORATIVE WORTH ★☆☆☆☆
It's a very successful film franchise, but it's essentially just not British

QUALITY OF DESIGN ★★★☆☆
Although little more than portraits, the designs are as slick as you would expect

WOW FACTOR ★★☆☆☆
Great for Star Wars aficionados, but few of these stamps will be used in the post

NEWS IN BRIEF

> Accompanying the Star Wars issue is a generic Smilers sheet featuring three Yoda, three Darth Vader, two Stormtrooper and two Han Solo stamps, with adjacent labels showing stills from films, priced £6.80.

> The Star Wars issue will be followed by a prestige stamp book on December 17, to coincide with the UK premier of the new film.

> Royal Mail is marketing its many Star Wars collectables in various packages, of which the most expensive, the X-Wing bundle, is priced £99.

> Slogan postmarks used by Royal Mail in recent weeks included 'New stamps mark our longest reigning monarch' on September 8-9, 'National Letter Writing Week' from September 14-18 and 'Rugby World Cup 2015' from September 18.

> The Smilers souvenir sheet produced for Autumn Stampex featured maritime mail, with labels illustrating ship letter postmarks and 10 Ocean Liner 1st class stamps.

> Royal Mail has produced an A4 'souvenir sheet' of 10 stamps and 10 labels celebrating 30 years of the television cartoon *Danger Mouse*. Issued in association with the show's distributors, it is priced £19.99, making it more expensive than a commemorative sheet but cheaper than most business customised sheets.

Retail stamp book of 1st class purple

The retail stamp book of six 1st class amethyst purple Machin definitives has a purple outer cover to match the stamps, and includes a photograph of the Queen on the inside front cover with the calligraphic inscription 'Happy and glorious'.

Printed in gravure by International Security Printers, it will remain on sale for a year, until September 10, 2016.

It has been announced that the new-coloured stamp will also be included in any booklets of mixed definitives and commemoratives issued until April 2016, with the exception of the Christmas issue.

After the Rugby World Cup booklet released on September 18, however, no more are scheduled during 2015.

Early examples of new Horizon label

The earliest known usages of the new-style Horizon label in its nationwide roll-out appear to have been on September 21.

For basic postage services, the machine printing appears much as it did on the old gold labels, which have been in use since 2009, except that it covers less of the Queen's portrait; it does not, however, leave it completely clear.

Labels for signed-for mail have a different style, with the service spelt out in text rather than just alphanumerics, the second line showing the value and the weight of the item, the third line showing the postcode and house number or PO Box number of the addressee (with the postcode of the post office no longer shown), and the fourth line showing the date. A large part of these labels is taken up by a machine-readable QR code, and where necessary the 'L' for Large is moved to the bottom right.

A new feature of the base label is the pre-cancel motif in the bottom right corner of the design.

Nationwide roll-out is expected to extend beyond Christmas.

NORVIC PHILATELICS

COVER OF THE MONTH

One of Bradbury's covers for the Long To Reign Over Us issue uses just the Wyon City Medal 1st class stamp from the miniature sheet, placed between formal portraits of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II.

The background image is of Windsor Castle, and the 'God save our gracious Queen' cancellation is also of Windsor. This cover is priced £20. Visit www.bfdc.co.uk

Commemorative sheet for animal war heroes

A commemorative sheet entitled Animals of the First World War was issued on September 17.

The labels alongside its 10 1st class Union Flag stamps reproduce period photographs of animals used as personnel carriers, supplies carriers, messengers, lookouts, regimental mascots and hospital pets during the conflict in 1914-18. They include horses, mules, camels, pigeons, dogs, cats and even a fox.

The self-adhesive sheet is priced £14.95.

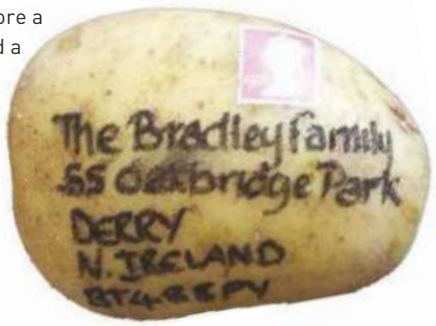
Potato serves as (very expensive) postcard

A potato made headline news in September after it was successfully posted from Birmingham in England to Derry in Northern Ireland.

The raw Maris Piper bore a handwritten address and a £3.30 Machin definitive.

It was sent to Dermot Bradley by his sister as an unusual way to thank him for organising her wedding, which had a potato theme.

The message was written on the back.



HOT OFF THE PRESS

Don Staddon has the inside line on British stamp printings, post office supplies and developments in postal mechanisation

DEFINITIVE PRINTING

The new 1st class amethyst purple Machin definitive was printed by De La Rue in self-adhesive sheets of 50, divided into panes of 25 by a broad unprinted central gutter.

The colour name appears in the margin at upper left, cylinder numbers at lower left, and the printing date (June 4) and sheet serial number at lower right.

On the stamps themselves, the year code 'O15R' can be seen in the 'Long To Reign Over Us' security overlay.

MINIATURE SHEET PRINTING

The Long To Reign Over Us miniature sheet was printed by ISP using a combination of recess and gravure, but the recess effect does not show up too well and the gravure printing is not up to the standard one would expect.

The security overlay on the 1st class amethyst purple definitive shows the year code 'O15R' (instead of 'over') and the source code 'REIGM' (instead of 'reign').

BOOKLET PRINTINGS

The retail booklets of six 1st class amethyst purple definitives, also printed by ISP, show cylinder numbers W1, W1, phosphor W1. Included in the security overlay are the year code 'O15R' and source code 'GS'.

The same stamps in the Rugby World Cup retail booklets (October issue, page 22), have the same year code but the source code 'GC'. These booklets were printed from cylinder numbers W1 x 6, phosphor W1.

POST & GO ISSUES

Post & Go stamps with the Machin design vended by the machines at Autumn Stampex carried the inscription 'Queen Elizabeth II Longest Reign'.

The Sea Travel set was issued on the opening day of the event, September 16, and there was a handstamping service for first day covers on site.

Staff at crown post office told us it had been allocated only a small number of rolls of Sea Travel stamps. A Royal Mail insider told us this was deliberate, to ensure the issue does not outstay its welcome!

POSTAGE-PAID IMPRESSIONS

Royal Mail has been conducting a trial in which stamp-like pictorial designs take the place of the usual postage-paid impressions for direct mail.

Two different designs, based on the 2nd class Machin definitive and 2015 Alice in Wonderland 2nd class stamps, are being used from September 1 to November 30, to test whether they help to make direct marketing (junk mail) more effective.

The 'perforations' are part of the printed image.

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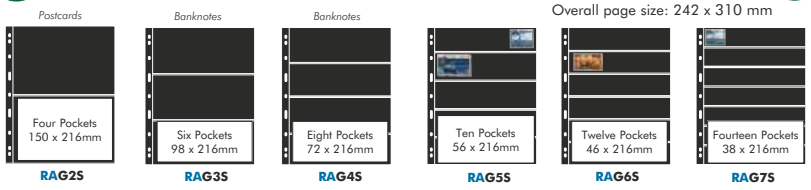

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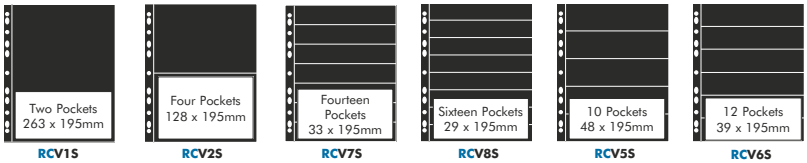

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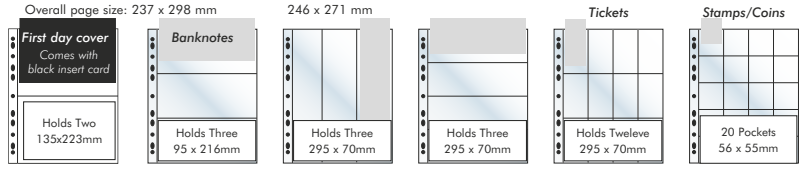

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...Continued from page 13

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9. **Universal Philatelic Auctions.** ... 15 years ago we created and added **UPA** to allow us to handle more valuable stamps not suited to Approvals, but we knew that in order to eliminate the 'unsolds' issue we needed to come up with a further unique selling proposition ...

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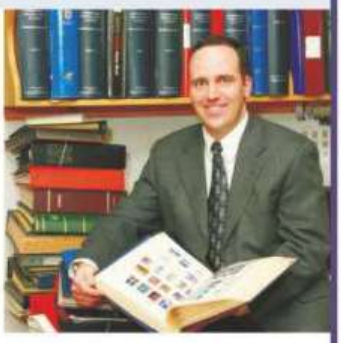

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Letters

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These pages are devoted to giving you the opportunity to have your say. Whether you want to praise or complain, suggest or advise, add information or correct it, or just get something off your chest, we'd love to hear from you.

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guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com

The Editor reads all letters, but is unable to answer them all personally. We reserve the right to edit letters for publication.

It's just cricket

In response to Alastair Gunn's Soapbox column on the subject of cricket stamps (September issue, page 27), anyone who is interested in the theme should consider joining the Cricket Philatelic Society.

The annual subscription to this worldwide fellowship is a nominal £7 for UK members, for which you will receive the quarterly *Wickets* newsletter.

For more details contact A Melville-Brown, 11 Weppons, Ravens Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex BN43 5AW.
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Don't try this at home

B Clayton asks 'How can collectors tell the difference between stamps received in the mail with biro scribbles and those defaced at home?' (October issue, page 30).

They can't, of course, unless the premeditated vandalism practised by some Royal Mail staff proves hard to forge convincingly.

Andrew Martin, Weymouth

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Not enough imagination shown in the Long To Reign Over Us issue

I find it difficult to adequately express my disappointment with Royal Mail's Long To Reign Over Us miniature sheet.

A rehash of a nearly 50-year-old definitive design along with four unimaginative, dull and frankly rather crude-looking stamps featuring the same definitive portrait: is this really the best they can do?

Other countries managed to issue stylish commemorative designs to mark this occasion, with Jersey and Australia both producing impressive sets. Why couldn't Great Britain?

I shudder to think what horrors await to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday next year!

Robert Kinnear, via e-mail

Longevity not proving good for the Queen's image

Although John Crace wasn't sure what to expect by way of commemoration of the Queen's longevity in his Soapbox column (October issue, page 35), he was right not to expect much.

It has become painfully apparent that Royal Mail has run out of ideas when it comes to portraying or otherwise honouring this particular monarch!

Rod Austin, Grantham

Do last-minute announcements help stamp issues?

Royal Mail decided to wait until the day of issue to announce the Long To Reign Over Us stamp issue to the press. But I wonder whether that approach was successful in terms of media coverage?

I saw no mentions of it in the national news, so what proportion of the general public became aware of the stamps on September 9, unless by chance they were visiting a post office or a booklet retailer?

To be fair I noted a certain amount of coverage on news websites, but none on television or radio.

I don't think that waiting until the day itself to make an announcement really helped Royal Mail with publicity. News reporting was always more likely to be dominated by what the Queen was doing that day, and by tributes paid to her by public figures, rather than by a stamp issue.

Edward Soames, Kidderminster

For the record, Stamp Magazine *published news of the new 1st class purple Machin last month (October issue, page 22), after it was inadvertently leaked. We knew nothing about the miniature sheet until the day before it was issued, such was the secrecy around it. - Ed*

SOAPBOX

Philatelic treasure hunts can turn up postal history which is money-spinning or simply head-spinning. Robert White is delighted either way

All collectors hope for lucky finds, and there are always opportunities out there. If we keep our eyes open, sometimes we spot them.

As a postal history collector I have had few pleasing discoveries over the years, some with monetary value and others with purely interest value.

THROW-AWAY LINES

Many years ago some friends were having a clear-out, and instead of throwing some old postcards away they gave them to me. I didn't expect any surprises, but because I didn't recognise the pair of stamps on a card posted in Italy in 1951 I looked them up in a catalogue.

To my astonishment, the 5l pair commemorating the International Gymnastic Festival in Florence were catalogued at £200 each in used condition. I had never had such valuable stamps in my hand before!

I got them expertised, consigned the card to auction and, knowing that auction prices rarely reach catalogue prices, was very pleased when it sold for £120. I gave the proceeds to my friends, who split them three ways between themselves, the original sender and me. After all, as they pointed out, they would have thrown the card away.

BARGAIN BUYS

More recently, browsing through postcards at an antiques fair, I found a card with a British Empire Exhibition 1d stamp tied by an exhibition postmark, which I bought for £1.

It wasn't until I got home and looked more closely that I realised that the stamp wasn't the more common 1924 version but the scarcer 1925 version, catalogued at £30.

I also purchased a collection of Indian covers for a few pounds, and without expecting any of them to have any value I decided to sell them on eBay.

Japanese Training Squadron,
H.I.J.M.S. "Yakumo"
at Sydney

My dear Mr. H.L. Hurst,

Many thanks for so kindly sending me and my friends many photos. They are very good. I sent you a photo of myself yesterday, sorrying for I am not so clever in

Linton
Ramornie Terrace,
Mount Stuart,
Hobart
Tasmania.

your father and mother and two sisters.
Yours very sincerely
Toshikiko Ojaki

ABOVE: 1924 entire from a Japanese naval officer in Sydney to a family in Hobart

ABOVE: Photograph of Toshikiko Ojaki on board HIJMS *Yakumo*

ABOVE: Photograph of the Hurst family visiting the ship

What I had not realised is the extent to which collecting is becoming more popular in India, as its increasing wealthy population are buying back their history. To my surprise, a 1950 Inauguration of the Republic first day cover sold for £34.

EYE-OPENING ENTIRE

Perhaps my favourite postal history find, however, is one which did not have monetary value, just historical and social interest.

In an auction lot of world covers I found an entire from Australia in 1924, which at first didn't seem very promising. The cover looked quite ordinary, with two King George V 1918-23 1½d green definitives tied by a Sydney slogan cancellation, and had been opened roughly. But the contents turned out to be a fascinating piece of inter-war social history.

The letter was written, in English, by one Toshikiko Ojaki from HIJMS (His Imperial Japanese Majesty's ship) *Yakumo* of the Japanese Training Squadron, to Mr H L Hurst in Hobart, Tasmania.

It begins: 'Many thanks for so kindly sending me and my friends many photos. They are very good. I sent you a photograph of myself yesterday, sorrying for I am not so clever in photographing, but I wish you will accept it...'

The photograph he mentions, which came with the cover, shows a smart Ojaki standing on the ship in his officer's uniform. With this, the Hurst family also kept two photos which they had obviously taken of themselves during a visit on board, one standing in front of a huge gun and another with some of the crew.

Going online in search of background information, I learned that the Yakumo was an armoured cruiser, launched in 1900 and in service until 1946. Interestingly, in view of what was to happen in the 1940s, most of its sister ships were built in British shipyards, although this one was built in Germany.

Of Toshikiko Ojaki I could find nothing. More strangely, I could find no record of a Japanese Navy visit to Tasmania, even in archived local newspapers. Has fraternisation between Australian civilians and Japanese servicemen been expunged from history, or was it simply considered no big thing at the time?

Either way, this entire and its contents make an attractive page in my album.

Robert White

Biro cancellations are certain to put off young collectors...

The latest instance of stamp vandalism I have suffered forces me to ask the question: have we now reached the point of no return?

What makes this example particularly annoying is that the mailing was addressed to a young enthusiast (my grandson, aged nine) as a new member of the excellent Stamp Active group for junior collectors.

I have been trying to encourage him to appreciate the stamps on cover, as well as the goodies inside, but imagine his reaction when viewing these barely recognisable Machin definitives?

As for your recent correspondent who suggested that pen cancellations should be regarded as 'postal history', my mildest form of response is one of exasperation and disbelief.

Jim Young, Falkirk

...especially where they are completely unnecessary

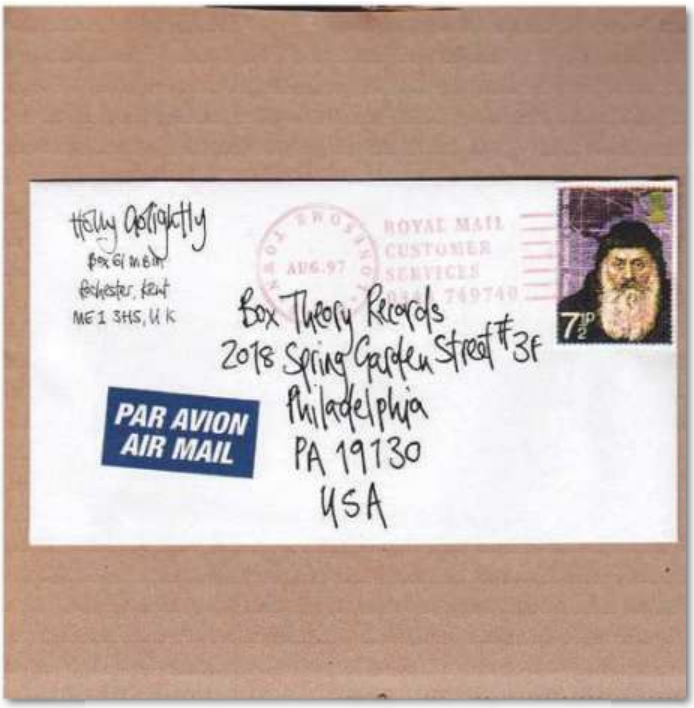
Further to the continuing protestations against biro cancellations, I thought your readers might be interested to see this selection of Guernsey commemoratives on a cover I received in earlier this year.

They were correctly cancelled in Guernsey, but then biroed, according to my local sorting office, in Chelmsford!

Harry Tabeart, Canvey Island

Strange record sleeve showing a concocted cover

As a belated follow-up to John Winchester's letter about the 1978 record *Penny Black*, by Charles McMiram and Richard Mathews (June 2015, page 30), I have come across another philatelic record sleeve with a more modern slant.



This was designed for the 7-inch single *Sand*, by the British singer-songwriter Holly Golightly, released in 1996 by Box Theory Records, and it's a very odd concoction.

As you can see, it illustrates a cover apparently addressed from the artist in Kent to the record company in Philadelphia, USA.

The cover is franked with Great Britain's 1972 British Polar Explorers 7½p stamp, depicting Henry Hudson, with a faked Lonesome Town postmark which incorporates a telephone number for Royal Mail Customer Services.

The choice of the stamp appears random, at least as far as I can tell. The telephone number looks as if it might possibly have been genuine at the time, which only adds to the strangeness of this sleeve!

James Hamblin, St Andrews

What a liability!

Stamp collections now hold more than 44 years' worth of Great Britain postage stamps which have decimal denominations and are therefore still valid for postage.

What would happen if we all decided to use them at the same time, inundating the postal system with millions of letters which Royal Mail would be obliged to honour?

Was this accumulation of sold liabilities built into the sale price by the Government on privatisation?

Barrie Wright, Bexhill-on-Sea

HOT TOPICS

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A selection of items from a new website dedicated to the finer aspects of the Machin Issues and related material:

MachinStamps.co.uk

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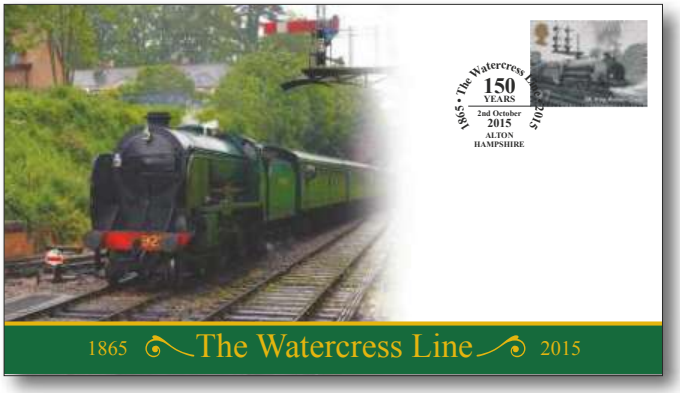

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CHRISTMAS PRESENCE

After 50 years, are there new approaches that could be explored in designing Britain's Christmas stamps? Or does Royal Mail do a good job in tricky circumstances?

THE AUTHOR
Richard West is *Stamp Magazine*'s Editor at Large and a Past President of the National Philatelic Society

In just a few weeks' time, on November 3, Great Britain's Christmas stamps will go on sale, and this will be the 50th Christmas for which a special stamp issue has been produced.

Postmaster General Tony Benn's plan for a 'pictorial stamp with Christmas themes' became a reality in 1966, with designs resulting from a competition for schoolchildren, although this had not been his original intention; he wanted the competition to come up with the designs for the Battle of Hastings set, and it was the Post Office which decided that it should be for the Christmas stamps.

The first few Christmas issues did not find universal favour. The appeal to children in 1966 (with images of a king and a snowman) and 1968 (desirable presents in the form of a doll's house, a rocking horse and a train set), and the religious paintings of 1967 were all the subject of criticism.

Only from 1969 did attitudes begin to change, thanks to the attractive designs (of an angel, three shepherds and three kings) created by Fritz Wegner.

Today, the annual Christmas issue is a well established tradition, and a popular one.

It is consistently the most used of all special issues; sadly, I find December is the only time of year when stamps are affixed to most of my mail, and not just to orders from dealers and letters from fellow philatelists.

The public's liking for using seasonal stamps to send Christmas cards was particularly evident last year, when there were many complaints that no 97p value (for the Europe up to 20g and worldwide up to 10g postage rates) was provided. Not everyone realised that a festive design for those rates was available from Post & Go kiosks...

ABOVE & LEFT: Vastly differing approaches have been taken to Christmas stamp issues. But they'll never please everyone

The popularity of these stamps doesn't necessarily make life easy for Royal Mail. In fact, quite the reverse, because you cannot please everyone.

Many would undoubtedly like the birth of Christ to be the focus of the stamps every year, yet we live in a multi-faith society, hence the adoption of the principle of alternating between religious and secular approaches. In recent years, alternative options have been made available for 1st class and 2nd class rates, but even so this is a compromise which will never be universally admired.

Sometimes the designs cause controversy, as in 2005 (with Madonna and Child paintings from various cultures around the world), but it would be surprising indeed if they met with universal approval every year. Those who find their appeal too variable should perhaps stock up when they find the stamps of any year particularly attractive!

For Royal Mail and its designers, coming up with fresh ideas every year is a difficult task. It is inevitable that certain themes will find themselves repeated, whether it is stained glass windows or robins, nativity scenes or pantomimes, but the approaches taken to these need to differ.

Most years Royal Mail invite several designers to come up with ideas, and may be spoilt for choice in deciding which ones will be used.

On several occasions noted sculptors or illustrators have been commissioned, such as Andrew Goldsworthy in 2003 and Raymond Briggs in 2004, or well-known characters employed, such as Wallace and Gromit in 2010, to give the stamps a distinctive twist.

Although the use of stamps in general is declining, Christmas issues will surely be required for years to come. So the challenge of finding new design approaches that appeal to the majority will not go away.

How big a challenge is it? Well, over the years we can all remember Christmas stamps that we found particularly attractive. But if we all nominated our favourites, there would probably be little concensus! ■

'Coming up with fresh ideas for a Christmas issue each year is a difficult challenge, and one that won't go away'

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think the current approach to designing Christmas stamps is right? Or does it need a 50th-anniversary rethink? E-mail your comments to guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com

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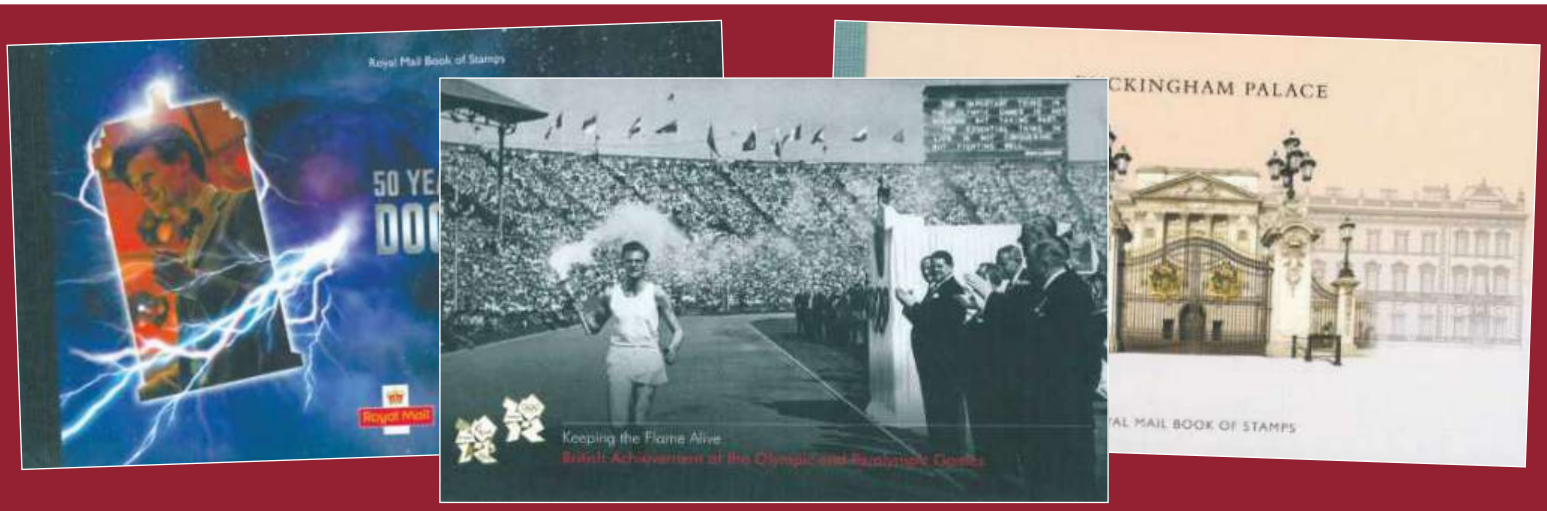

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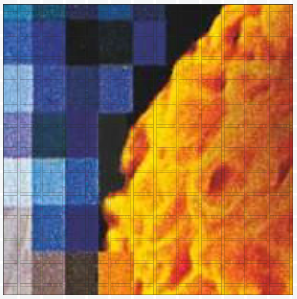

Take a close look at the enlarged detail of a GB stamp shown on the right. If you can identify which stamp it's from, you could win a copy of *British Stamp Market Values 2016*, the authoritative annual price guide from the publishers of *Stamp Magazine*.

All you have to do is tell us which stamp it is, including its value, the name of the set it is from and the year of issue. Send your answer on a postcard (or sealed envelope) with your name, address and telephone number, to Spot The Stamp (Nov), *Stamp Magazine*, PO Box 269, Haslingden, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 0DJ.

The closing date for entries is November 12, 2015, and the first correct answer drawn from our postbag after that date will win the book. Good luck!

August's winner

The Spot The Stamp winner from the August issue is John Colquitt from St Helens, who correctly identified the mystery stamp (left) as a 90p value from the 2009 Mythical Creatures set, illustrating a mermaid.

COMPETITION WINNERS
Battle of Britain presentation pack

In our August issue, we offered you the chance to win a presentation pack of the Battle of Britain miniature sheet issue, courtesy of Royal Mail.

We asked you which legendary fighter aircraft was built by Supermarine, and the answer was of course the Spitfire.

The 12 lucky winners whose correct answers were drawn at random were Derek Bush from London, Chris Austin from Haslemere, Aeron Jones from Bala, H D Sherry from Prenton, Andrew Epstein from Crediton, P Warner from Rochford, D Aylott from Colchester, Margaret Buckle from Sudbury, B A Turner from Cottingham, Andy Barton from Borehamwood, S Dempsey from Dover, and I Scott from Ramsgate.

Congratulations to you all. Prizes will be posted out shortly.

WIN
a Long To Reign Over Us presentation pack

Royal Mail

We have a presentation pack of the Long To Reign Over Us miniature sheet issue to give away to each of 12 lucky winners, courtesy of Royal Mail.

The five stamps, including a new 1st class definitive, celebrate Queen Elizabeth II becoming Britain's longest-reigning monarch (see page 20).

To enter, simply answer the question below, fill in the coupon and send it to the address shown.

The closing date is November 12, 2015, and the winners will be drawn at random after that date.

QUESTION

In which month of 1952 did Queen Elizabeth II ascend the throne?

Terms & Conditions: Entry is open to UK residents with a permanent UK address, except employees (and their families) of MyTimeMedia, its printers and agents, the suppliers of the prizes and any other companies associated with the competitions. Winners must be aged 18 or over. Only one entry per household is permissible. No responsibility can be accepted for entries lost, damaged or delayed in the post. Winners will be notified by post, telephone or e-mail. Prizes are not transferable to another individual and no cash or other alternatives will be offered. The promoters reserve the right to amend or alter the terms of competitions and reject entries from entrants not entering into the spirit of the competition. Unless stated otherwise, all postal entries must be made on the relevant coupon printed in the magazine. The winners will be chosen from all correct entries received by the closing date stated. The decision of the judges is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

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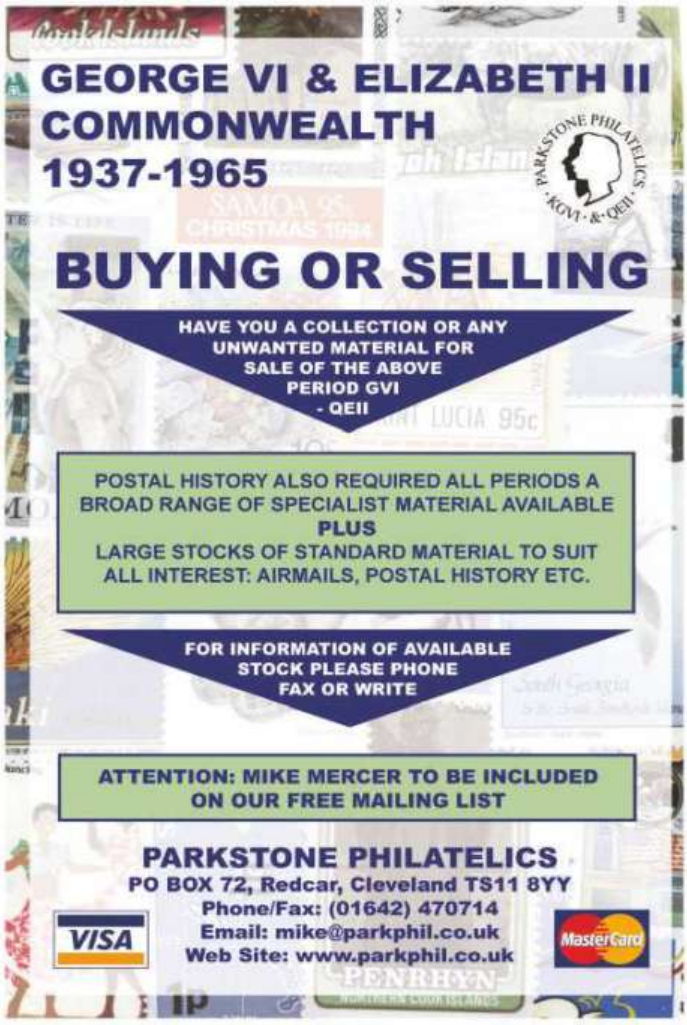

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Red alert

The Soviet Union preferred to avoid acknowledging tsarist triumphs, celebrating regional identities or applauding individual citizens on its stamps. But desperate times call for desperate measures, and the 'Great Patriotic War' against Nazi Germany necessitated a change in thinking

■ **Report by David Parker**

ABOVE: Soviet tanks prepare to mobilise during the Great Patriotic War of 1941-45 against Nazi Germany

It was to the surprise and horror of Josef Stalin that his supposed ally, Adolf Hitler, ordered three million German troops to invade the Soviet Union at dawn on June 22, 1941.

Since September 1939, a Treaty of Friendship had existed between the two states, founded on the brutal partition of Poland. But the treaty had been one of short-term convenience between the two leaders, who loathed the ideologies underpinning each other's regimes and remained deeply suspicious of each other's territorial ambitions.

Hitler was in no doubt that fascism would have to crush communism sooner or later, and believed that the speedy military defeat of the USSR would confirm his control over central Europe.

Thus began a new phase of World War II, known to Russians as 'The Great Patriotic War', and with it came a fascinating new era in Russian philately.

Deadly struggle

Dubbed Operation Barbarossa in honour of a formidable medieval German warrior, the attack was brilliantly successful in its initial three-pronged onslaught.

The Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, recently annexed and terrorised by the Soviet Union, were quickly overrun, while German forces also sped east and south, seizing numerous cities. Soon they were targeting the major prizes of Leningrad in the north, Moscow in the centre and Stalingrad in the south. By the beginning of July, Hitler assumed the total defeat of

ABOVE: Soviet Union 1941 Mobilisation 30k stamp, based on an existing Red Army recruitment poster, showing a mother encouraging her uniformed son with the words 'Be a hero!'

ABOVE: 1944 50k reproducing Ilya Repin's painting *Reply of the Cossacks to Sultan Mahmoud IV*, celebrating the independent spirit of the Cossacks, a significant minority group in the USSR

LEFT: 1942 30k commemorating the poet Mir Ali Shir, an important cultural figure amongst the Soviet Union's Uzbek and Islamic minorities

'Stamp issues which for more than two decades had reflected a very narrow Soviet ideology suddenly began to move in radical new directions'

ABOVE: 1944 30k marking the death centenary of Ivan Krylov, a fabulist who had enjoyed royal patronage

ABOVE: 1944 1r portraying the composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, who had also served in the imperial navy

ABOVE: 1943 1r honouring Vitus Bering, a famous explorer in the service of Tsar Peter the Great

the Soviet Union was imminent.

However, the vastness of the Russian landmass, the over-extension of German supply lines, the interference of Hitler in military decisions, the impressive output of Russian factories relocated safely out of his reach beyond the Caucasus mountains, and the Red Army's powers of endurance all contributed to the eventual halting of Barbarossa.

The invasion got bogged-down in what would become, in terms of lives lost, the most costly campaign in military history.

Propaganda rethink

The desperate struggle forced the Soviet leadership to rethink some of its long-standing policies.

Since its inception in 1917, the Bolshevik regime had used continual propaganda to promote the benefits and achievements of the new state, especially in comparison with the former tsarist regime. It never let the dark truth of countless deaths through poverty, forced migration and the purges of dissidents get in the way of the uplifting theory that the workers now ruled the country. At the same time, it ensured that regional culture and traditions were suppressed in favour of international communist ideology.

In wartime, though, with many people in the western Soviet republics, notably Ukrainians and Cossacks, initially hailing the German invaders as their liberators from communist tyranny, a new approach was required.

In 1812 Tsar Alexander I had called upon Russian citizens to rally in opposition to the invasion by the French army of the Emperor Napoleon by appealing to their latent loyalty to their motherland, hoping that this would override their discontent with its ruling classes. Now Stalin needed to reactivate that stubborn devotion to 'Mother Russia', the part-religious, part-pagan concept of a land that provided for its people, and which it was their sacred duty to protect.

In the dark days of 1941, Stalin also accepted that religious fervour and regional patriotism must be allowed to join communism in motivating the disparate peoples of the Soviet Union and uniting them against the invaders.

As ever, Stalin would use all ▷

ABOVE: Three stamps from the War Orders & Medals series of 1943-45, noting the Order of the Great Patriotic War (1r), the Order of Suvorov (10r) and the Order of Bogdan Chmielnitsky (2r). The latter two are named after an 18th-century imperial general and a 17th-century Cossack warlord

ABOVE: 1943 30k honouring the novelist Maxim Gorky, who had been arrested and possibly murdered during Stalin's purges

RIGHT: 1943 60k portraying the poet Vladimir Mayakovsky, who died mysteriously after becoming disillusioned with Stalin's regime

'The heroism of contemporary servicemen of humble rank was also eulogised in several series of vividly designed commemoratives'

DID YOU KNOW?

Britain's Union Flag appeared on Soviet stamp issues twice within a year during World War II.

A set of two in 1943 commemorated the Tehran Conference, at which Josef Stalin met with this wartime allies, Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill and the United States' President Franklin Roosevelt, over a period of four days in November and December.

A second pair showing the flags of all three nations marked what was designated as Allied Nations Day on June 14, 1944.

ABOVE: 1944 Allied Nations Day 60k

ABOVE: 1943 Tehran Conference 30k

ABOVE & LEFT: The first of several Heroes of Russia sets, issued in 1942, illustrated Viktor Talalikhin ramming his stricken aircraft an enemy bomber (20k), Nikolai Gastello deliberately crashing his plane into enemy fuel tanks (30k blue), Lev Dovator courageously leading a cavalry charge (30k black), Alexander Chekalin refusing to yield to a German advance (1k) and his fellow resistance fighter Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya being led away for execution by the enemy (2k)

ABOVE: The second Heroes of Russia set in 1944 included images of Alexander Matrosov throwing himself in front of a pillbox (60k violet), and Natalya Kovshova and Mariya Polivanova fighting to the death (60k green)

the propaganda resources at his disposal, and that included postage stamps. Stamp issues which for more than two decades had reflected a very narrow Soviet ideology now began to move in radical new directions.

Reconciling minorities

Several issues attest to the need to bring suppressed nationalities back on side in the struggle against Germany.

In January 1942 a significant pair of stamps commemorated Mir Ali Shir (1441-1501), the influential Uzbek poet, composer, painter and sculptor whose fame still shone brightly among the Muslims of the southern Soviet Union.

In similar vein, the pre-war denigration of the Cossack culture was reversed in the stamps issued in November 1944 which marked the centenary of the birth of the painter Ilya Repin (1844-1930).

One design reproduced his huge canvas *Reply of the Cossacks to Sultan Mahmoud IV*, painted during the 1880s and later bought at huge expense by Tsar Alexander III, recalling the refusal of Cossacks to submit to Ottoman rule in 1676.

Tolerating tsarists

Famous Russians with close connections to the discredited tsarist regime were also unexpectedly rehabilitated, where it suited the communist authorities.

In April 1943 a set marked the life of the explorer Vitus Bering (1681-1741), who spent much of his life in the service of Tsar Peter the Great surveying the Siberian coast and the west coast of North America.

The popular Russian fables elaborated by Ivan Krylov (1769-1844) were honoured by an issue in November 1944, even though Krylov himself had enjoyed the tsars' patronage.

A set of four in July 1944 celebrated the orchestral pieces and operas of Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908), such as *Scheherazade* and *The Snow Maiden*, which celebrated treasured Russian traditions, despite the fact that the composer had served for many years in the imperial navy.

Rehabilitating rogues

Some contemporary writers who were popular figures but had fallen out of favour with the authorities belatedly enjoyed due recognition.

In June 1943 two stamps commemorated the controversial novelist Maxim Gorky (1868-1936), who had publicly opposed the tsarist regime, befriended Lenin and later written favourable portrayals of communist life, and yet been arrested in Stalin's purges and died in suspicious circumstances.

Another pair of stamps in October 1943 celebrated the poet Vladimir Mayakovsky (1893-1930), a supporter of the Revolution who was best known for *Left March! For The Red Marines 1918*, encouraging Bolshevik troops in their battle against counter-revolutionary forces, but committed suicide, or perhaps was murdered, after becoming disillusioned with the cultural censorship of communism.

Dishing out medals

It was considered necessary to remind people of Russia's proud military history, even if meant ▷

ABOVE: 1943 1r celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Russian Revolution

ABOVE: 1943 60k marking the 25th anniversary of the Red Army and Navy

ABOVE: 1944 30k noting the 20th anniversary of the death of Lenin, who is illustrated side -by-side with his successor Stalin

ABOVE: The 1942 War Episodes stamps showed women packing food (30k purple) and sewing uniforms (45k red), as well as Soviet armed forces destroying German tanks (20k purple) and shooting down German aircraft (45k blue)

harking back to the imperial period. To this end, Stalin phased in a range of medals for distinguished service, and these were publicised in no fewer than four sets of stamps.

The first, in 1943, was the Order of the Great Patriotic War, a term which not only resonated at the time but harked back to the defence of the motherland against Napoleon in 1812 and the Germans and Austrians in 1914-17.

Others, celebrated in 1944, included the Order of Suvorov (named after the 18th-century general who enjoyed success against the Ottoman Turks and French revolutionary armies), the Order of Kutusov (after the field marshal who stopped Napoleon in his tracks at the bloody Battle of Borodino), and the Order of Alexander Nevsky (after the medieval ruler of Novgorod who defeated invasions by Sweden and the Teutonic knights).

Another tranche, in 1945, noted the Order of Ushakov (after the admiral who asserted Russian naval power in the Mediterranean in the late 18th century), the Order of Nakhimov (after the admiral who defended Sevastopol during the Crimean War), and the Order of Bogdan Chmielnitsky (after the Cossack leader who wrested Ukrainian territory free from Polish and Lithuanian control in the 17th century).

Honouring heroes

The heroism of contemporary servicemen of far more humble rank was also eulogised in several series of vividly designed commemoratives.

In November 1942 a set portrayed five newly named Heroes of the Soviet Union, all of whom had been killed while courageously opposing the initial German onslaught in 1941.

Lieutenant Viktor Talalikhin rammed his fighter plane into an enemy bomber, Captain Nikolai Gastello crashed his blazing plane into an enemy fuel depot, Major General Lev Dovator was a cavalry commander killed defending a town on the road to Moscow, and Alexander Chekalin and Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya were youthful resistance fighters tortured and hanged by the Germans.

Their heroism had key propaganda value. Zoya in particular, who had volunteered to join a partisan unit as an 18-year-old girl, became an icon for many Russian soldiers.

More Heroes of the Soviet Union

ABOVE: Three stamps in the 1944 Liberation of Russian Towns set illustrate the hard-fought battles for Sevastopol (top), Odessa (centre) and Stalingrad (bottom)

were celebrated in July 1944, including Khanpasha Nuradilov, a Chechen machine-gunner killed near Stalingrad, Alexander Matrosov, who threw himself onto a German pillbox to block the machine gun and allow his colleagues to advance, and Boris Safanov, a fighter pilot killed defending shipping around the Kola peninsula.

This time there were two women, Natalya Kovshova and Mariya Polivanova, both snipers who killed themselves and their would-be captors by exploding grenades when they were trapped with their ammunition exhausted.

Encouraging citizens

Interspersed with these issues were others extolling the patriotism of anonymous soldiers, resistance fighters and ordinary citizens.

As the titanic struggle against the Germans was getting underway in August 1941, a famous recruiting poster of a peasant woman bravely seeing her uniformed son off to war was reproduced on a single stamp.

The War Episodes series, started in 1942, showed machine-gunners, signallers, snipers and partisan guerrillas but also food-packers, women sewing uniforms, munitions workers and nurses tending wounded soldiers.

Interestingly, unlike most other war-torn countries, the Soviet Union did not sell stamps with surcharges for relief funds. It seems that facing personal sacrifices was expected of civilians as much as it was of soldiers.

Clapping communism

Balancing all these issues were numerous others hailing the achievements and authority of the communist leadership.

In January 1943 a set of eight marked the 25th anniversary of the Russian Revolution with a mix of military scenes and images of Vladimir Lenin. In October that year two sets showing battle scenes were linked to the 25th anniversaries of the Red Army and the Young Communist League.

In May 1944 the powerful legacy of the founder of the state was evoked once again in a set entitled Twenty Years Without Lenin, featuring a range of portraits and his mausoleum in Moscow.

Cheering victory

As the fortunes of war eventually began to turn in the Soviet Union's favour, stamp issues celebrated the hard-won military victories.

ABOVE: 1945 60k commemorating the relief of Stalingrad, symbolically showing the red flag flying over formerly occupied Soviet territory

A set of four in 1944 featured the defence of Sevastopol, Odessa, Stalingrad and Leningrad, and in 1945 came stamps acclaiming the relief of Stalingrad, the Battle of Moscow and the final liberation of all Russian soil.

Back to normal

As the Soviet machine tightened its grip on eastern Europe in the post-war period, however, it quickly retightened its grip on the stamp programme too.

There was no further thought of encouraging regional identity or any triumphs of pre-revolution times, and the astounding wartime efforts of ordinary citizens were quickly forgotten.

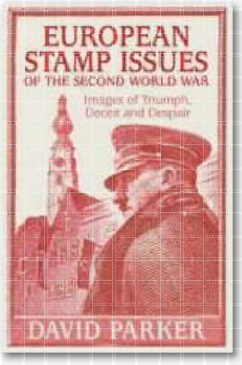
All the propaganda emanating from the Kremlin signalled very clearly that it was Stalin and the communist regime which had saved the country. ■

FIND OUT MORE

European Stamp Issues of the Second World War: Images of Triumph, Deceit & Despair by David Parker was published in June.

It explores how stamps and postmarks were exploited by political leaders in 22 European nations to encourage patriotism, proclaim military victories, excuse the occupation of territory, disguise their weaknesses and send other propaganda messages.

Published by The History Press, it is priced £25.



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Q. How to Build a Good Stamp Collection?

A. (Hint) If it's easy – maybe it is TOO easy...

10+ 'TOP TIPS' for Successful Collecting

As many of you know I made the decision to give up collecting when I started full-time in the trade 43 years ago. But here's what I perceive as a mistake I made in terms of re-sale value and in enjoyment. If you are not bothered about V A L U E then you don't need to read further...

What I collected then was easy to source. It was good quality. They were (and still are) lovely stamps but they would be worth less now than when I collected and that's more than 40 years ago. The basic mistake I made then was thinking that 'easy' made for a good stamp collection. Yes, 'easy' made for a lovely collection but I could buy those same stamps – in the SAME quality – from any number of different sources. I still can today ... so if I can buy them easily today – will their value have appreciated? Has demand for what is/was easily available increased? The answer is a firm **NO**.

TIP As an 'aside'. In particular be wary of 'inertia' selling delivery systems – where you pay on direct debit / standing order system / monthly invoice. These systems usually hide the highest mark-ups in our industry and the lowest recovery value when it comes to sale. You are going to find this story particularly incredible – but about 13 years ago I was once called to clear a house-full of stamps. The owner had died leaving many 100's of ***unopened New Issue delivery envelopes.*** I opened one of the oldest envelopes. Inside was a note from the supplier saying sorry they had not delivered the MINT 1929 PUC £1 ! Ah well, I thought "such is life" – the collection included both mint Wembleys + literally masses more. Imagine my surprise when the next envelope opened included a MINT PUC £1 with a note saying "we found one for you" (and then the realisation that this High Value stamp had lain inside the same envelope for so long that it had a large brown 'rust-spot' on the reverse!

Returning to subject: So, what forms the basis of a **GOOD** stamp collection if I want **'resale VALUE'**?

TIP 1). The answer is, as usual, a combination of factors ... BUT, if you think in terms of desirability and then dial in quality ... this makes for a collection that others will wish to purchase. Of course collecting means that some of the stamps you source will be easily available ... but if ALL the stamps you collect are easily available and on average they cost very little each ... then you may have 1,000's of different stamps whose value lies in the actual handling cost of the supplier – not in their intrinsic value. So when it comes to selling this may result in little / no interest. Of course it goes without saying **TIP** – ***Always collect the Best quality that you can afford.***

Where Do I Source Good Stamps ?

2). Sadly, in some senses, the Philatelic World has changed. Gone are the days when in 1980 100,000 different Collectors descended upon the 1980 International Stamp Exhibition at Earls Court. I know because I was there. An International Stamp Show in the 'west' today may be lucky to see 10,000 visitors. A stamp fair today in a local village / town may be lucky to see 30 visitors let alone 20 actual buyers ... when you consider that 15 dealers may have travelled to such a venue – is it any surprise that many Collectors may see the same stamps they saw at that same venue a month before?

3). No, the answer is that Stamp Collecting is alive and well – stamps shops are all but defunct – but 'underground' – on-line, by mail-order and at auction things are still 'humming' depending upon whom you are dealing with. So, let's look at potentially / probably the biggest sourcing area of the hobby apart from retail which is fairly self-explanatory ... and that is bidding / buying at Stamp Auction.

4). **Nowadays there are three types of stamp auction:** – Pure Internet / Public - (including on-line bidding) / Postal (Mail-Bid Sales – including on-line). Each has its strengths and weaknesses. Let's start with Pure Internet live auctions, I won't mention names but in some senses these are today's equivalent of the 'Wild West'. As fast as these internet Giants catch up with the some of the crooks using them, the crooks move a step ahead ... many internet bidders using them are 'hooked'.

TIP 4a). They have become 'live auction obsessed' unwilling / not capable of looking elsewhere – thinking that bidding / buying this way guarantees value which it does not. What happens when they come to sell?

Please turn to page 53

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Double trouble

Bermuda's first two commemorative issues puzzled the philatelic world in 1920-21, as they celebrated the same event twice with competing designs

■ **Report by John Winchester**

ABOVE LEFT: Bermuda 1920 Tercentenary of Representative Institutions 1s from the first issue, printed by typography

ABOVE RIGHT: the 1s value from the 1921 second issue, recess-printed

Bermuda's House of Assembly is the third-oldest continuous parliament in the world. As its tercentenary approached, in 1920, it was suggested that a special stamp issue should mark the occasion.

This was widely considered a good idea, especially as it would be the colony's first commemorative set. Unfortunately the Assembly and the Governor of Bermuda, General Sir James Willcocks, failed to liaise properly over the process, with the result that the colony ended up with not one set, but two.

The Assembly placed an announcement in the local press in March 1920, inviting suggestions for a possible design. Apparently oblivious to this, the Governor set down his own design, and sent it to the Crown Agents in London.

The appointed printer, De La Rue, duly had an essay prepared by May 18, three weeks before the Assembly informed the Governor of its plan for a set of nine denominations on June 9.

The parliamentarians were surprised when the Governor produced his design with a flourish, but not very impressed.

On the positive side, it made a strong feature of the legendary sailing ship *Sea Venture*, which had brought the first English colonists to Bermuda in 1609. Giving it equal prominence to the portrait of King George V worked well enough in the large format adopted.

On the other hand, the concept was marred by two wordy banners, the necessary 'Tercentenary of Establishment of Representative Institutions' and the superfluous 'Bermuda Commemoration Stamp'.

Worse, it omitted images which the Assembly considered essential: the Sword of State, the Speaker's Gavel and the Coat of Arms.

Nevertheless, with the celebration only weeks away, it was considered prudent to continue with his issue. It was duly printed by typography, with some of the values in two colours.

Placed on sale on November 11, 1920, were ¼d, ½d, 2d, 3d, 4d and 1s denominations on Multiple Crown CA watermarked paper, and 1d and 2½d denominations which became the first colonial stamps to appear with the new Multiple Script CA watermark.

A 6d denomination, also with the new watermark, was added on January 19, 1921.

Meanwhile, the Assembly carried on regardless with its own design, commissioning a local architect, H J Dale, to work it up.

Dale did a fine job, tucking the ship, sword, gavel and arms into the four corners, making the dates '1620-1920' more prominent, placing the King's head in the centre and framing it with the inscription in a tidier way.

The detail in the design was greatly enhanced by the decision to have the stamps recess-printed, also by De La Rue, with the 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d and 1s having the Multiple Crown CA watermark and the ¼d, ½d and 1d the Multiple Script CA watermark.

This second issue appeared almost exactly six months after the first, on May 12, 1921. ■

MARKET VALUES

Both issues are catalogued from around £100 for a basic set of nine, with extra value lying in fine used examples from the first issue. Some watermark varieties have four-figure prices.

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IN THIS MAG OR LISTS – THEN:

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SG catalogue value at least £15,000 - £1,100

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Continued from Page 49: **How to Build a Good Stamp Collection?**

Perhaps then they realise that ***only*** some of what they may have glistening is 'gold'. Indiscriminate internet auction bidders buying 1,000's of low price items ... may have spent large sums IN TOTAL ... but may not have created desirable collections. The cost of a low priced item is the labour and cost of selling it. Nothing changes when that item comes to being re-sold.

TIP 5). **Now let's look at Public Auction.** Yes – you will be hard pressed to find a Public Stamp Auction that does not accept on-line / live internet bidding. As with 'Pure Internet' stamp sales – and perhaps even more so – 'Caveat Emptor' (buyer beware becomes even more the mantra. Generally individual lots may have higher average values so that lots offered are often higher value collections, accumulations or higher value sets / singles / rarities. Such auctions are the 'haunts' of dealers and astute buyers ... but risk is attached, plus the absence of guarantees and the pernicious unpleasant buyer's premium + other charges which at certain auctions can convert a £1000 stamp purchase into as much as an invoice for £1,300.

TIP 5a).There are bargains to be had – but it is very much a 'big boys' playing field. Some of these auctions deliberately under-estimate lots that they know are worth far more ... so that they can then have the dubious pleasure of publicising that a £1,000 estimated lot realised £10,000, when perhaps their knowledge suggested it should have been estimated at upwards of £5,000 in the first place ... (hence – how wonderful they are).

TIP 5b). For certain types of lots such as actual Collections offered fairly intact the absence of guarantee combined with unreliable estimate means that for those who do not physically view a Public Stamp Auction and bid 'blind' – this is a dangerous place to be. Of course this may work to the advantage of an astute bidder who is actually present to physically view lots in the auction room. Historically that person was usually a Dealer. Perhaps less so these days.

TIP 6). **Finally we come to look at Postal Auctions/ Mail-Bid Sales.** First I must profess that I have an interest in a Mail-Bid / Postal Auction Sale. My company U P A conducts the largest postal auctions in the U K ... What should the Collector or Dealer be looking for here?

TIP 6a). Most ***good*** Postal Auctions including U P A offer Collectors a **No Quibble Refund Guarantee (NQRG)** ... and by 'No Quibble' I mean ***NO QUIBBLE***. Look for this – it is crucial. You are probably not actually seeing the stamps before bidding ... so no guarantee would mean unacceptable risk.

TIP 6b). Unlike Public Auctions most Postal Auctions 'break' many collections into smaller 'collector-sized' units so that you may find what you seek without having to purchase what you do not need - it follows that most of the stamps in most postal auctions may be owned by the company presenting the auction. It is not viable to sell low priced lots on a commission basis. Ask yourself why you may be asked to pay a buyer's premium? Is it actually a Vendor's lot or owned by 'The House'?

TIP 6c). The Buyer's Premium was introduced to 'split' cost between buyer and seller so that a 'low' seller's commission looks attractive (if you forget about the premium the buyer is paying for the seller's stamps). Be aware of this or deal with auctions not charging a buyer's premium. You are in control. You can bid anywhere that you find what you seek – but it is good to be aware and informed.

TIP 6d). Prices Realised are IMPORTANT. For some unknown reason – even some larger Postal / Mail-Bid Auctions still do not produce lists of what their lots sold for after the auction. Look for auctions providing this feature – it provides reassurance combined with a trackable 'snapshot' of current market values ***PLUS*** what is selling and what is not selling. You can learn such a lot from 'Prices Realised' – I study them each day.

TIP 7). Credit Cards. 75% of some auction sales are settled by credit / debit card. The Biggest in the land has no need to charge you for use of them ... Sheer volume of business accesses lowest rates. Why are you paying a premium to use your card? Is the supplier making a profit upon the extra % you are charged to use your card?

TIP 8). Look for unique 'Collector friendly' benefits that turn the disadvantage of lots not being sold to your advantage. U P A, for example, has for the past 15 years offered their Unique Reducing Estimate System **(URES)** whereby lots are increasingly reduced in estimate price till sold – some have reached one penny and then sold. Approaching one million lots have been offered through this system.

TIP 9). Cost of Delivery is one of the most annoying hidden costs that collectors absolutely abhor. Look for transparency in this area.

TIP 10). Beware the Seller / Auction NOT including Insurance when sending your winnings.

And Finally We come to choice ... and mind-set ?

TIP Without Choice we have nothing. So it follows that you need substantial choice to form a good, even great, stamp collection. You cannot do business when each time you 'visit' all you see is what you have seen before – stagnating stocks offered at prices that ensure continued stagnation. If choice is limited you'll never find philatelic items you need – or even that you were unaware of their existence. That's the joy of collecting. The thrill of the unexpected, the chance find. You need dealers that want to help and auctions that wish to serve – so, in stamps 'attitude is all'.

So when you're searching for a stamp auction compare it against your list above of what to look for and if and when you're offered a 'No Risk Free Trial' ... please **turn to P.27**-take it Now ◆

National champions

Europe's best-loved folk heroes include a disrespectful sharpshooter, a grumpy giant, a furtive thief, a mischievous jester and a sadistic vampire. It's a moot question how many of them actually existed, but they are immortalised on stamps

Report by Jeff Dugdale

Most European countries have a folk hero, a semi-mythological patriot whose name, personality and deeds are imprinted in the national consciousness, entrenched in traditional folklore and referenced repeatedly in art, literature and film.

Their legends are typically based on real people, but usually people who were not public figures, or who lived in a time for which historical records are poor, and are consequently not well documented. Living in the shadows of medieval history has allowed their characters and their deeds to be exaggerated to mythical proportions.

Other folk heroes are widely accepted as fictional, but revered nonetheless as the embodiment of a nation — even if, in certain cases, closer inspection reveals that they have been borrowed from another culture altogether.

Many folk heroes are apochryphal defenders of the common people against the oppression of a regime or the brutality of a mythical beast. Others are simply the exposers of corruption or arrogance. Often they are outlaws, or live on the fringes of society. Usually they are male.

However, they come in all shapes and sizes, as a thematic collection will show.

ABOVE: Monument to the Swiss folk hero William Tell in Altdorf, built in 1895

Till Eulenspiegel

Perhaps the most endearing central European folk hero is Till Eulenspiegel, who is revered in Germany as a cheeky medieval practical joker.

Till is said to have been born near Braunschweig (Brunswick) in around 1300 and travelled extensively around the Holy Roman Empire, from Belgium in the west to Bohemia in the east and Italy in the south, perhaps working as a clown or jester.

There is little hard evidence of his existence, but it has been claimed that he was Till van Cletlinge, a highwayman convicted in 1339, and that he died in the Black Death pandemic in 1350.

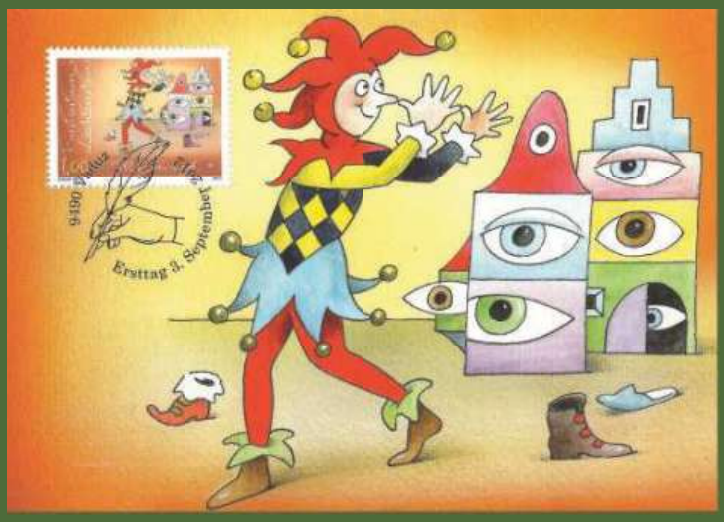
He was famous for playing pranks, on figures of authority but

TILL EULENSPIEGEL

ABOVE : West Germany stamp of 1977 illustrating four Till Eulenspiegel pranks: dancing on the high wire, teaching a donkey to read, buying some dirt and betting with a bishop

ABOVE: Germany 2012 design showing many of the elements associated with Till, including a mirror, an owl and a stuck-out tongue, along with items associated with his pranks, such as a donkey, and broken vase and some excrement

BELOW: Illustrated first day cover for the 1977 issue, with an owl-and-mirror cancellation



ABOVE: Liechtenstein 2012 maximum card depicting Till thumbing his nose at his victims

'Folk heroes are typically based on people who lived in the shadows of medieval history, which allows their deeds to be exaggerated'

WILLIAM TELL

ABOVE: Switzerland's first portrayal of William Tell on a stamp issue was on the 1914 definitive series, illustrating part of the statue in Altdorf

ABOVE: A different depiction came on the 60c value in the 1941 Historical definitive series, after a painting by Ferdinand Hodler

ABOVE: Walter Tell, the little boy at the heart of the legend, beat his father onto a stamp by being depicted on Switzerland's 1907 and 1908 definitives

ABOVE: An issue from Germany in 2004 commemorated the 200th anniversary of the German playwright Friedrich Schiller's drama *William Tell*

ABOVE: Similar designs from the Philippines in 2001 and Grenada in 2005 both illustrate the Tell statue in Altdorf

also on tradesmen, to expose their gullibility, greed, pomposity or hypocrisy. Some 95 tales of these activities were collected in a 16th-century publication titled *An Entertaining Book About Till Eulenspiegel*, an early form of the picaresque novel.

The format of a typical tale has Till convincing a gullible employer that he is a competent tradesman and then making a complete hash of the job he is given to do, which affords him great mirth at the trust stupidly placed in him.

The soubriquet 'Eulenspiegel' ▷

translates as 'Owl Mirror' (symbols representing wisdom and reflection respectively), and he is frequently portrayed with an owl and a mirror. Depictions also often show him impudently sticking out his tongue or thumbing his nose.

Cultural homages to Till include German composer Richard Strauss's 1895 symphonic tone poem entitled *Till Eulenspiegels Lustige Streiche* (The Merry Pranks of Till Eulenspiegel).

William Tell

A contemporary of Till, according to legend, was Switzerland's patriotic hero William Tell, a central figure in his country's achievement of independence.

At a time when the Habsburg Emperor of Austria held sway in the region, his appointed advocate in Altdorf in the canton of Uri, Hermann Gessler, is said to have hung his hat on a pole in the town square and demanded that everyone should bow to it. When Tell refused to do so, in around 1307, he was arrested.

As a punishment, Tell, who was known for his skill as a crossbowman, was forced to shoot an apple off the head of his young son, Walter, with just one attempt. He succeeded, but when he openly admitted that if he had killed his son he would have despatched Gessler with a second shot, he was arrested again and imprisoned.

After escaping from a boat on Lake Lucerne, Tell is reputed to have fought in the subsequent uprising against the Austrians, which led to the formation of the Swiss Confederacy.

There is no historical record of his existence, and the earliest written account of his deeds dates from more than 150 years later, but

DRAGON-SLAYERS

Many European folk heroes are dragon-slayers, in some cases local interpretations of the story of St George, the Roman soldier from Syria who became an early Christian martyr (May 2011 issue, page 62).

FAT-FRUMOS

The Romanian hero Fat-Frumos (which roughly translates as Prince Charming) overcame the evil dragon Zmeu to save the beautiful Princess Ileana, who had been locked in a tower. Versions of the legend are related in stamps from Romania in 1965 and 1982, Moldova in 2000 and Bulgaria in 1961.

FINIQUI

In Albania's legend of the Azure Eye, a wyvern (two-legged dragon) was devouring people daily until a brave youth named Finiqui offered up a donkey which was secretly carrying hot coals in its panniers. After consuming this, the beast had to drink desperately from the river until the water inside him began to boil and he exploded! The story is illustrated in a stamp issue of 1997.

PRINCE BRUNCVIK

In Czech legend, Prince Bruncvik helped a lion to defeat and kill a nine-headed hydra in battle, after which the lion accompanied him on the rest of his seven-year odyssey. The story is illustrated on one of the Czech Republic's 1997 Europa set.

JEAN DE BERNEAU

Another hydra appears in the Belgian legend of Jean de Berneau, who used magic powers to overcome it and win the hand of the king's daughter. The episode features on another Europa stamp design in 1997.

SEIGNEUR OF HAMBYE

Jersey's folklore includes the tale of the Seigneur of Hambye, who travelled from Normandy to tackle a dragon which was killing people and burning houses. He disposed of the beast but was then murdered by his treacherous squire, who not only claimed the credit but married his widow.

The squire was eventually found out when he cried out the truth in his sleep, and was put to death, as related in a se-tenant pair of stamps issued in 1981.

SIGURD & SIEGFRIED

Sigurd Sigmundson was a legendary hero of Norse mythology, the central character in the 1,000-year-old *Volsunga Saga*, and the slayer of the dragon Fafnir.

However, his adventures are better known to the modern world through the Germanic equivalent of the legend, the *Nibelungenlied*, in which hero is called Siegfried.

Much of the credit for this goes to the composer Richard Wagner, and his grand opera cycle *The Ring of the Nibelung*, first performed in 1876.

ABOVE: Fat-Frumos, Romania 1965

ABOVE: Finiqui, Albania 1997

ABOVE: Prince Bruncvik, Czech Republic 1997

ABOVE: Jean de Berneau, Belgium 1997

ABOVE: Seigneur of Hambye, Jersey 1981

ABOVE: Sigurd, Norway 2006

ABOVE: Siegfried, Germany 1933

VLAD THE IMPALER

ABOVE & RIGHT: Vlad the Impaler has mostly been portrayed in a conventional way in Romania, including on a stamp of 1959 and a maximum card for the 1976 issue marking his 500th death anniversary

ABOVE: Only Romania's 2004 set acknowledged the more sinister reputation given to Dracula by Bram Stoker's famous novel

ABOVE: Great Britain's depiction of Dracula in the 1997 Horror Stories set

his story has passed into legend, and it was the basis for the eponymous play by Friedrich Schiller, published in 1804, and opera by Gioachino Rossini, first performed in 1829.

Vlad the Impaler

There is plenty of evidence of the existence of Vlad III Dracul, who ruled as the Voivode (Duke) of Wallachia, the southern part of what is now Romania, between 1448 and 1476.

He became a folk hero to Romanians and Bulgarians because of his efforts to defend Christendom in the region from the advance of the Ottoman Turks, with a ruthlessness which was considered harsh but fair. Long after his death, however, his legend was extrapolated in new directions in western Europe.

Firstly he was given the nickname Vlad the Impaler, after his reputation for terrible violence in general (he is alleged to have killed 100,000 people), and in particular his favoured method of disposing of his enemies.

Building on this, he was completely reimagined by the Irish novelist Bram Stoker, in his 1897 novel *Dracula*, as a Transylvanian ▷

ROBIN HOOD

ABOVE LEFT & ABOVE: A typical portrayal of Robin Hood as an archer in woodland camouflage appeared on a Grenada stamp of 1972, while a design in Dominica's 2000 millennium series notes 1375 as his first appearance in English literature

LEFT: Maximum card for the Robin Hood stamp in Liechtenstein's 2012 issue featuring popular literary characters

ABOVE: A stamp from the Comoro Islands and a se-tenant stamp and label from Australia in 2009 celebrating the films *The Adventures of Robin Hood* starring Errol Flynn (1938) and *Robin Hood* starring Russell Crowe (2010)

vampire who moves to England and feeds on the blood of young women. The story has since been the basis for countless horror films and plays.

Robin Hood

One of the most enigmatic and heroic of all folk heroes is England's Robin Hood, a public-spirited outlaw and defender of the oppressed who robbed the rich to help the poor.

Different versions of his legend have him operating in the 12th, 13th or 14th centuries, in the forests of Nottinghamshire or Yorkshire, an Anglo-Saxon resisting the rule of the Norman elite or a dispossessed landowner with a grudge against the local sheriff. Usually he is depicted as a skilled archer dressed in Lincoln Green, leading a band of 'merry men'.

The existence of this mysterious figure has never been pinned down, not least because it is unclear whether Hood was his surname or a common alias for a furtive outlaw.

He seems to have been the subject of folk tales and ballads long before his first mention in literature in the late 14th century, but he could be a conflation of various medieval outlaws.

Our modern view of Robin is coloured by Sir Walter Scott's novel *Ivanhoe*, published in 1819, and by the many television and cinematic treatments of him, which tend to place him in the reign of King Richard the Lionheart in the 1190s.

FIN MacCOOL

ABOVE: Ireland stamp of 2012 shows Finn MacCool as a youth, cooking the Salmon of Knowledge, licking his burnt finger and thereby receiving knowledge

ABOVE: Finn is also depicted as a giant on this 1997 issue from the Isle of Man, an island he is said to have created by throwing earth into the Irish Sea

'Many folk heroes are defenders of the common people against oppression, brutality, corruption or arrogance. Often they are outlaws, or live on the fringes of society'

Surprisingly, there are no British stamps featuring him, but a handful of other countries have stepped into the breach.

Finn MacCool

Ireland's greatest folk hero is the mythical Fionn mac Cumhaill (Finn MacCool), whose legend overlaps with Scottish and Manx lore.

Fionn (a nickname meaning 'blond') was the leader of the Fianna band of warriors, the guardians of the Kings of Ireland, which raises comparison between him and the story of England's mythical King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. He is sometimes but not always represented as a giant.

His exploits are related in the *Fhiannaiocht* (Fenian Cycle), part of Celtic mythology preserved by the oral tradition and said to have been first told by his son Oisin. Its origins are lost in the mists of time, but were popularised by an epic poem published in English by a Scotsman, James Macpherson, in 1761.

The best-known parts of the Fionn myth relate to his building works, in particular how he came to construct the Giant's Causeway in Antrim as stepping stones to Scotland, so that he could challenge a rival giant who was insulting him, and how he tore out a sod of

EL CID

ABOVE: 1p and 2p values in Spain's 1962 set of four honouring El Cid

BEST OF BRITISH

You could widen a thematic collection to include national heroes who most definitely existed, and are revered as freedom fighters, from the various corners of the British Isles.

For example, Ireland has Brian Boru, who defeated the Vikings; Wales has Owain Glyndwr, who rebelled against the English; Scotland has William Wallace, who fought for independence, and Rob Roy MacGregor, a Jacobite outlaw.

England has its national champions too, including Boudicca, who rose up against the Roman Empire, Alfred the Great, who united the Anglo-Saxons against the Vikings, and Hereward the Wake, who gamely resisted the Norman conquest.

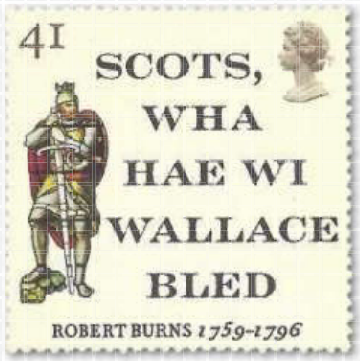
Stamps exist depicting Boru, Glyndwr and Wallace, but not Rob Roy, Boudicca, Alfred or Hereward.

Straddling the divide between history and mythology is perhaps the most universal of British heroes, King Arthur, who is said to have defended post-Roman Britain against Saxon invaders; medieval historians and poets were in no doubt that he was flesh and blood, even if modern historians can find little trace of him.

Arthur has been commemorated on stamps from Great Britain in 1985, as well as from the likes of Grenada 1972, St Vincent in 1986 and Alderney in 2005.

ABOVE: Brian Boru, Ireland 2002

ABOVE: Owain Glyndwr, Great Britain 1974



ABOVE: William Wallace, Great Britain 1996

ABOVE: King Arthur, Great Britain 1985

earth from Ireland and threw it into the Irish Sea in anger, thus creating both Lough Neagh and the Isle of Man.

The 19th-century Irish revolutionary organisation known as the Fenian Brotherhood is named after the Fenian Cycle.

El Cid

The national hero of Castile, the kingdom which played the leading role in the unification of Spain, is Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, better known as El Cid.

A nobleman born near Burgos in around 1043, such was his prowess as a military leader in the second half of the 11th century that his reputation survived the fact that he fought on different sides: for the Christian kings of Castile against the Muslims, and for the Muslim rulers of Zaragoza against the Christian kings of Aragón.

His nickname, which appears not to have been used until after his death, is an anomaly too, 'El' being Spanish for 'The' and 'Cid' being Arabic for 'Lord'.

Eventually Diaz made himself Prince of Valencia in his own right, but died while his city was under Muslim siege in 1099. Legend has it that his corpse was suited up in armour and mounted on his horse

LACPLESIS

ABOVE: Latvia's 1932 Militia Maintenance Fund set featured several depictions of Lacplesis as the defender of the nation

ABOVE: Lacplesis wrestling with a bear, from a sculpture illustrated in Latvia's 1937 Monuments issue

to boost the defenders' morale!

His story was later romanticised by plays and folk tales in Spain, and his international fame was resurrected by a 1961 Hollywood film in which he was portrayed by Charlton Heston.

Lacplesis

There is no documentary evidence for the existence of Lacplesis, the national hero of Latvia, but the 19th-century epic poem about his exploits is based on medieval folklore.

Written by Andrejs Pumpurs, it portrayed a bear-slaying pagan giant who is committed to protecting Latvians and the city of Riga against foreign invaders, especially crusading knights and Christian missionaries from Germany.

Its publication coincided with a rising nationalism, at a time when German influence and land ownership remained a source of resentment in the region, and Lacplesis became a unifying figure in the struggle for Latvian independence. ■

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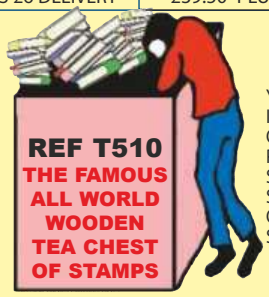

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Period of transition

Inhambane's spell as a stamp-issuing Portuguese colony from 1895-1920 straddled the mother country's revolution, so there were monarchist and republican issues

■ **Report by Adrian Keppel**

After rounding the southern tip of Africa in 1498, the Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama stopped at a natural harbour in what is now Mozambique, and liked it so much that he called it Terra de Boa Gente (Land of the Good People). When a trading post was established there a generation later, however, the name that stuck was Inhambane (pronounced in-yam-ban).

The Portuguese introduced postage stamps in Mozambique in 1876, and these remained in use throughout the whole colony for the next two decades.

But in the mid-1890s colonial administrators caught on to the fact that issuing stamps for separate districts could generate extra revenue, and Inhambane was one of many districts given its own stamp programme.

The first issue, of 12 stamps ranging in value from 5-reis to 300-reis, was a commemorative set marking the 700th birth anniversary of St Anthony, issued on July 1, 1895. It comprised key-type Mozambique stamps locally overprinted 'Centenario de S Antonio/Inhambane MDCCCXCV'.

ABOVE: Inhambane 1914 5c definitive with the Ceres key-type design

the bottom tablet.

After Portugal became a republic following a revolution in 1910, all values except the 65r were overprinted 'Republica' in 1911.

More stamps received a different 'Republica' overprint in 1913, along with a surcharge, but this time on various stamps in the Vasco da Gama commemorative series which had been issued for Macao, Timor and the Portuguese colonies in Africa back in 1898. There were three sets of eight values each.

A regular republican definitive set made an overdue appearance in 1914, by way of 16 values from ¼-centavo to 1-escudo using the Ceres key-plate design by Constantino Fernandes, engraved by José Sergio de Carvalho e Silva. The generic design included the inscription 'Republica Portuguesa', while the colony's name was printed in black in the bottom tablet.

ABOVE: Inhambane collectables include 1911 (illustrated) and 1917 'Republica' overprints on King Carlos key-type designs

Incongruously, however, the King Carlos key-plate design resurfaced three years later, in a set of 13 values locally overprinted 'Republica' as a provisional measure. You can distinguish these easily from the 1911 set because their overprint is in a different typeface, sans-serif rather than serif.

Those were to be the final stamps issued for Inhambane. In 1920 the district started using Mozambique stamps once again, and its catalogue entry ends there. ■

'Inhambane's two proper definitive sets used key-type designs portraying King Carlos I and the republican figure of Ceres'

These are by far the most elusive Inhambane stamps, and it can be a challenge to put together a set. Spicing things up is the fact that many of the values can be found with the overprint inverted.

In 1903, Inhambane got its first proper definitive set. This time 16 values, from 2½r to 700r, used Louis-Eugène Mouchon's key-type design portraying King Carlos I, with the country name rather awkwardly split over two lines in

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Stamps 69p to 89p	65%	Sorted by value
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States agents

For more than half a century, mail was directed to US Navy ships deployed in Europe via a despatch agent in Britain. The telltale sign was a distinctive London oval handstamp, which can be found in 10 different styles

Report by John Edwards

ABOVE: Among the US Navy ships seen in European waters in the late 19th century was USS *Newark*, which visited Cádiz and Genoa in 1892 to join the celebrations marking the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' discovery of the Americas

It is a little known fact that the United States of America operated an agency in London for forwarding mail to its naval personnel in Europe. The service operated from 1866 until at least the early 1920s, and possibly later.

In the years following the Civil War of 1861–1865, the United States was a rising naval power. As with Britain's Royal Navy, the US Navy was deployed around the world and its ships were frequently on the move.

Relatives or friends wishing to write to personnel serving on them would never know where to send their letters, so a US Despatch Agency was opened in London on June 23, 1866, providing a mail forwarding service to ships in European waters.

The appointed agent would track the movements of the fleet, so that letters addressed 'care of' the agency could be forwarded to a vessel's next port of call.

ABOVE: 1869 cover from the United States to USS *Richmond*, sent care of B F Stevens, bearing the type II oval handstamp in red, dated June 5

American agents

The first Despatch Agent was Benjamin Franklin Stevens, an American from Vermont who had joined his elder brother Henry in London in 1860 to pursue his main interest as a bibliographer (he produced a 25-volume work covering American state papers from the Revolutionary period in European archives).

EVOLUTION OF HANDSTAMPS

TYPE I
Double-oval frame with 'United States' at top and 'Despatch Agency' at bottom. 'B F Stevens' and 'London' inside oval. Date in month-day-year format, with year expressed in four digits. Elongated diamond shapes above and below date.
Dimensions 37mm x 22.5mm
Colour black or red
Earliest date August 4, 1866
Latest date January 13, 1868

TYPE II
As type I, but with inscription changed to 'Despatch Agent' in oval frame at bottom. Three sub-types recorded, with variations in the detail of the ornamentation.
Dimensions 37.5mm x 28.5mm
Colour red
Earliest date May 21, 1868
Latest date July 19, 1879

TYPE VI
As type II, but with date in day-month-year format, with blank space above and below it, and a dot after 'London' . Only one recorded example, identified after other Stevens types and therefore with type number out of sequence.
Dimensions 38mm x 29mm
Colour red
Earliest date January 23, 1871
Latest date January 23, 1871

TYPE III
As type II, but with double outer oval frame, date in day-month-year format, with year expressed in two digits, and short lines above and below date.
Dimensions 40.5mm x 30.5mm
Colour red or purple
Earliest date September 30, 1878
Latest date January 4, 1893

TYPE IV
As type III, but smaller.
Dimensions 39mm x 29.5mm
Colour purple or blue
Earliest date March 24, 1894
Latest date May 12, 1897

TYPE V
As type IV, but single outer oval frame and longer lines above and below date. Sub-type Va (illustrated) has the year expressed in four digits.
Dimensions 39.5mm x 29.5mm
Colour purple
Earliest date January 28, 1897
Latest date December 24, 1901

TYPE VII
As type V, but with 'B F Stevens' and lines above the date removed as an interim measure.
Dimensions 39.5mm x 29.5mm
Colour purple
Earliest date April 2, 1902
Latest date May 5, 1902

TYPE VIII
As type V, but with 'J B Gilder' in place of 'B F Stevens', and small stars reinserted within oval frame.
Dimensions 39mm x 29mm
Colour purple
Earliest date June 15, 1902
Latest date March 16, 1904

TYPE IX
Inscriptions changed to 'United States Government' and 'Despatch Agency'. Only the date and 'London' in the centre.
Dimensions 50mm x 30mm
Colour purple
Earliest date November 12, 1907
Latest date November 26, 1923

'The US Despatch Agency was opened in London in 1866, working out of offices in Covent Garden and later Trafalgar Square'

In 1864 he and a business partner formed B F Stevens & Brown Ltd, literary and fine arts agents, and from 1866 he combined this with his duties as US Despatch Agent, working out of an office at 17 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

In 1874 they moved to an office at 4 Trafalgar Square, where Stevens retained the agency until his death on March 5, 1902.

His successor as US Despatch Agent in London was Joseph B Gilder, who had attended the US Naval Academy in the 1870s and therefore had naval connections.

Gilder resigned early in 1904, and the identity of subsequent Despatch Agents is unclear. Interestingly, however, the agency continued to use the same address as the literary business (which was still trading under the management of Henry J Brown and later Ralph A Brown), probably because this was so well known to American naval families that a new address would have created confusion.

RIGHT: Benjamin F Stevens, the US Despatch Agent in London from 1866 to 1902, photographed in the 1890s

The date the agency closed is also uncertain, but a cover is known with a datestamp as late as November 26, 1923. ▷

Oval datestamps

Distinctive oval handstamps were used to record the date that each letter passed through the London Despatch Agency.

Nine different types can be identified, and several sub-types. Types I to VI belong to the Stevens era, type VII to an interim period and type VIII to the Gilder era, with type IX being the only later one recorded.

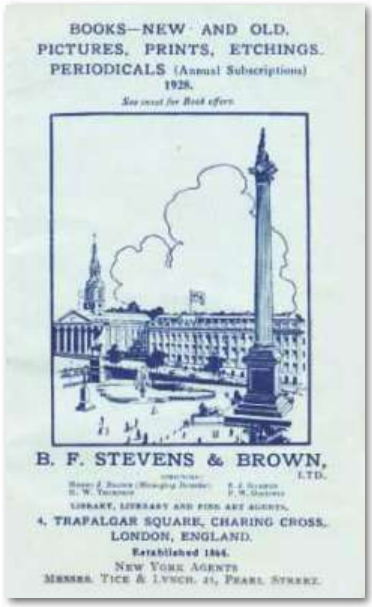
In the very earliest days of the service, when the date was struck as a back-stamp only, Stevens used black ink. After that he used red for many years, before switching to purple around 1880.

For a short time in 1896 only the handstamps were struck in blue, possibly due to a shortage of purple ink.

Fleet movements

Keeping track of ship movements around Europe would have been no easy task, but the Despatch Agent probably got his information from the Naval Attaché at the US Embassy in London. His official status would have given him access to information not available to the families of naval personnel.

It was important to know not only where a ship was at any given time, but also how long it was likely to remain there and what was its next port of call, allowing time for forwarding letters to the appropriate place.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NEW YORK AGENTS

ABOVE: B F Stevens & Brown, the literary and fine arts agency whose co-founder had doubled as the first US Despatch Agent in London, was still trading at Trafalgar Square in 1928, as this catalogue shows

ABOVE: 1896 cover from the United States to USS *San Francisco*, forwarded by B F Stevens to Smyrna in Turkey, bearing the scarce type IVa handstamp in blue, dated March 4

'Researching mail forwarded via the Despatch Agency has a spin-off for naval historians, because information on the location of ships can be extracted from covers'

RIGHT: 1902 postcard from Sweden to USS *Albany*, forwarded by J B Gilder to Villefranche, France, bearing the type VIII handstamp in purple

THANKS
This feature is courtesy of Leeds Philatelic Society, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary. Handstamp information is based upon the details collated by Peter Stafford and Joe H Crosby, with illustrations courtesy of Richard B Graham, John Donnes and the author.

Researching mail forwarded via the Despatch Agency has a spin-off for naval historians, because information on the location of ships can be extracted from covers.

They show, for example, that USS *San Francisco* was in Smyrna (Izmir) in Turkey in March 1896 but in Gibraltar at the opposite end of the Mediterranean by July 1897. USS *Albany* was in Villefranche in France in October 1902, but in Manila in the Philippines by August 2003.

Other ships for which London Despatch Agency covers survive include USS *Richmond* (1869), USS *Sabine* (1870), USS *Plymouth* (1871), USS *Enterprise* (1879), USS *Gettysburg* (1879), USS *Quinnebaug* (1884-85), USS *Newark* (1892), USS *Buffalo* (1901) and USS *Albany* (1902). ■

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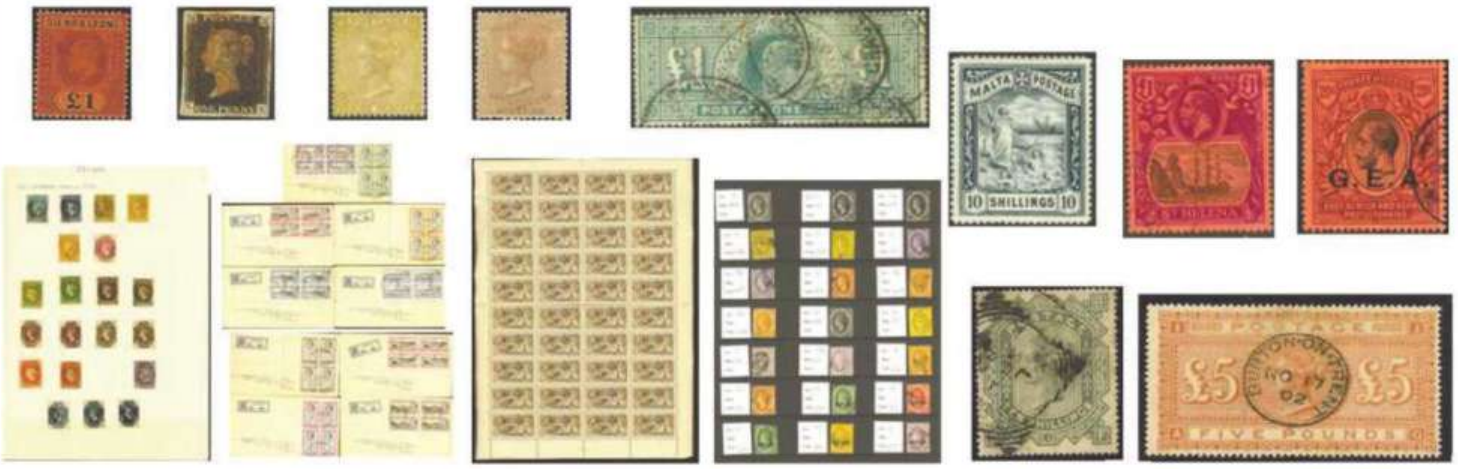

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Selling Your Stamps?

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Summary Tip #19:
5 Different Ways to Sell your Stamps: Choose with Care.

Dear Colleague,

Following the first article (Volume1) in the 'Selling your Stamps?' series we present the advantages and disadvantages inherent in each of the 5 different ways to sell your stamps.

1. Direct Sale: To a Dealer – or Stamp Auction buying on their own account.

The merits of 'direct sale' are often under-estimated by collectors. Direct sale, intelligently handled, may yield considerable benefits. For example we recently purchased a modest collection at a major London auction which was estimated at £4,000 to £5,000. Remember in our last article #18 when we talked about 'know the strength of your collection' ... this collection was the kind that no public auction house could afford to 'break' on behalf of the owner – so it was offered intact as one lot. Inevitably no collector would purchase such a diverse collection – so the 'trade' was bidding against each other in order to purchase. Finally we purchased the collection for £8,158 including 20% buyer's premium. The collection actually sold for £6,800. The auction's commission charged to the buyer was £1,358.

But that's not the end of the story. Did the seller receive £6,800? ... NO. The seller received £6,800 less the seller's commission which unless specially negotiated was a further 17.62% inclusive of VAT. That's a further £1,198 to be deducted from the £6,800 sale price. The owner will have received £5,602 upon a collection sold to us for which we paid £8,158 !

I can hear you saying that Auctions exist so that buyers compete to pay more for your stamps – it's true – but some collections simply are not suited to being sold via public auction. All you are doing is paying an auction to ensure that dealers compete to purchase your collection ...

45% MORE was paid for the public auction to sell the collection to a stamp dealer. £2,556 more was paid that the collector did not receive.

BUT – there are imaginative ways that you can obtain more from dealers without going to auction – and have the benefit of certainty too, whilst not waiting up to 6 months for your money ... for example – ... a valuable collection was offered to us earlier this year. We're allowed to write what happened without revealing any confidences. Unfortunately the Father had died leaving one of his two Daughters £25,000 and the other Daughter his Stamp Collection – a very difficult situation as you might imagine. Believing the collection may be valuable, unusually, 3 different dealers visited to value it. All 3 dealers incurred costs – in our case 6 travelling hours and 260 miles – so none was happy to leave an offer on the 'table' for the next dealer to pay £50 more and purchase the collection – what was the client to do allowing fair play to all? We suggested an 'auction' monitored by the owner of the collection – not hard to conduct in the age of landline and mobile phones... and opened the bidding with a £20,000 bid.

The 3rd Dealer dropped out – the 2nd dealer had just finished viewing the collection so was actually on the client's premises. He bid £21,000, we bid £22,000 ... and so it went on until bidding 'narrowed' to £500 increments and finally we purchased the collection for £27,500 and travelled 260 miles again to collect it and pay for it. The client thanked the 2nd dealer for his time and participation with a small ex-gratia payment. Fortunately a happy ending for the client – amazingly, more than her Sister ... it could so easily have been a different outcome.

But what if that collection had been auctioned as one lot or 7 volumes + residue? For the client to have been better off– the trade would have had to pay more than £40,000 ... an unlikely scenario. The moral – know the strength of your collection and 'pick' the right people to participate in its purchase.

In our next article we'll discuss alternatives

Happy collecting from us all,

PS. If you find this 'tip' interesting please forward it to a philatelic friend.

Andrew McGavin

Managing Director: Universal Philatelic Auctions, Omniphil & Avon Approvals, Avon Mixtures, Universal Philatelic (Ebay)

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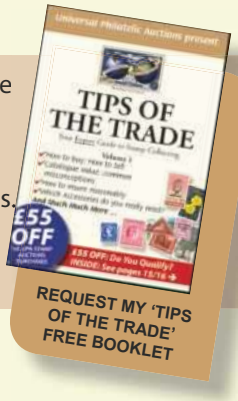

If you'd like to discuss the sale of your collection please contact Elaine or Andrew on 01451 861111

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What's the story behind these se-tenant Machins?

Q This cover that I purchased recently came with an interesting newspaper cutting about its se-tenant strip of one 2½p rose and three 3p pink Machin definitives.

The press report says that these strips were controversial with first day cover collectors because they were made available only to the Reader's Digest Association, and not through post offices. Can you tell me anything more about this issue?

Margaret Weir, via e-mail

A *Reader's Digest* magazine commissioned several multi-value coil stamps from Royal Mail, in this case to be used as part of a book promotion.

Se-tenant strips were enclosed on a card within a mailing to potential customers, with the intention of paying the postage for the reply. The idea was that a colourful strip of stamps (adding up to the 2nd class rate of 11½p) would draw the eye more than a solo stamp, making the recipient more likely to respond.

However, there was nothing to stop people using the stamps for their personal mail instead, as on this cover.

The 3p pink had been issued in counter sheets in October 1980, and the 2½p rose in January 1981, so these were existing stamps, but not hitherto available in this se-tenant combination.

Stocks were delivered to *Reader's Digest* from the end of May 1981, and sent out in mailings in early June. By its nature, the se-tenant strip had no official issue date, but examples are known postmarked from June 22, and earlier dates may be possible.

It is true that they were not available from post offices, or initially through philatelic outlets. However, se-tenant strips were made available from the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh from September 2, and subsequently from all philatelic counters.

As a consequence they have no scarcity value, except where they come from printings with the fluorescent brightener omitted, a catalogued variety which commands a premium.

It is unclear whether Royal Mail was shamed into making the strips available philatelically, or whether that was always the plan after a period of exclusivity for *Reader's Digest*.

'Special stamps' storm

STAMP collectors have attacked the Post Office for issuing a special strip of stamps to a private customer without making it available to the public.

It means that thousands of collectors who keep envelopes with new stamps marked "first day of issue" have missed their chance.

The special strip of one 2½p and three 3p stamps was printed after a request from the Reader's Digest Association for a brightly-coloured strip totalling 11½p — the second-class postage rate.

The mail order firm has sent out the strips as part of a book promotion.

GOT A QUESTION?

E-mail your question, with a 300dpi digital image, to: guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com
We will answer as many queries as we can on these pages, but please note that we are unable to respond to them by e-mail, post or telephone, and it might not be possible to solve and publish all that we receive.

What were the 'royal reprints' of the Penny Black?

Q I have heard several mentions of the 'royal reprints' of the Penny Black. What exactly were these, and when were they produced?
John Soames, Worcester

A The so-called 'royal reprints' were plate proof impressions of Great Britain's 1d stamp in black, made in September 1865 from plate 66 (die II, alphabet III).

This was long after this plate, which had never printed the original Penny Black, had been withdrawn from use in printing the Penny Red.

The nickname derives from an uncorroborated story that the reprints were made at the request of a member of the royal family.

Corbitts' auction in April 2015 included an impressive block of eight of the 'royal reprints', which sold for £6,000.

Why would a 1989 cover need to be X-rayed before delivery?

Q I have had sight of a British cover with an intriguing 'Passed/X-Ray' cachet in red. It was posted from Wolverhampton to Penguin Books in Camberley, Surrey, on August 21, 1989, and it was suggested to me that this might have been during an anthrax scare. Is that true?
Roy Summers, Wombourne

A We are unable to provide a definitive answer to this, but the posting date was less than a year after Penguin published Salman Rushdie's controversial book *The Satanic Verses* in September 1988.

The publication prompted some Muslim clerics to issue a *fatwa* (legal ruling) calling for Rushdie to be killed for insulting the prophet Muhammad. While the author went into hiding, parcel bombs were sent to various bookshops and Penguin offices during 1989.

It is thought that routine screening of the company's incoming mail was carried out by the security services during this period, to check for explosive devices.

Why might Royal Mail have wanted to investigate this uncancelled cover?

Q Under what circumstances would Royal Mail have affixed the yellow sticker with the Area Investigation Manager's handstamp on this 1994 cover, asking for it to be handed to the postman or surrended to a post office?

Could it be to trace the sorting office that should have cancelled the stamps? Or might it be that the stamps are suspected to be forgeries?
Aubrey Sheena, via e-mail

A This item would have been referred for investigation to try to understand why it had not been cancelled by the sorting machinery, as would have been expected.

Was the colour of the stamps not being recognised, or was there an issue with their phosphor coating? If the cover was returned as requested, it would have been sent to a laboratory for testing. However, this is not a case of suspected forgery.

By the way, missing cancellations are no longer referred to Revenue Protection. Instead postal staff are required to cancel stamps with a ballpoint pen, or with the new wavy-line handstamp which is now being issued for the purpose.

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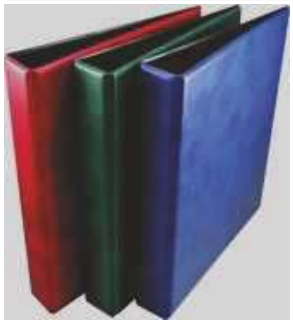

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www.nzpf.org.nz/exhibitions/capital-stamp-show-2015

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Tel: +49 7031 7910
kontakt@messe-sindelfingen.de
www.messe-sindelfingen.de

OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 1
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Nordia 2015
Venue: Täby Park Hotel & Conference Centre, Kemistvägen 30, 187 28 Täby, Stockholm.
Contact: Chris King, UK Commissioner
chris.king@postalhistory.net
www.nordia2015.se

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Norpex 2015
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Contact: Secretary, Newcastle Philatelic Society, PO Box 34, Jesmond, New South Wales 2299, Australia
moore.john@optusnet.com.au

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Sharjah 2015
Venue: Mega Mall, Sharjah.
Contact: Faleh Mubarak Almalagheeth, PO Box 33333, Dubai
Tel: +971 4 353 8383
epa@epa.ae
www.epa.ae

NOVEMBER 12-15
GREECE
Notos 2015 Multinational Exhibition
Venue: Peristeri Exhibition Centre, Dodekanisou 106, 12135 Peristeri, Athens.
Contact: Hellenic Philatelic Society
www.hps.gr/notos2015
notos2015@hps.gr

NOVEMBER 20-23
HONG KONG 2015
Asian International Stamp Exhibition
Venue: Hall 5G, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, Wanchai, Hong Kong.
Contact: Hong Kong Philatelic Society, GPO Box 446, Hong Kong
hkpsociety@yahoo.com
www.hongkong2015stampexpo.com

DECEMBER 3-5
MONACO
Monacophil 2015
Venue: Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies, 11 Terrasses de Fontvieille, 98000 Monaco.
Contact: Patrick Maselis, General Commissioner
Tel: +32 474 84 84 39
patrick@maselis.be
www.monacophil.eu

JANUARY 22-24
USA
Sandical
Venue: Al-Bahr Shrine Temple, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road, San Diego, California 92111.
Contact: Linda Mabin
Tel: +1 619 582 9311
mabin7@cox.net
www.sandical.org

JANUARY 29-31
USA
Southeastern Stamp Expo
Venue: Hilton Hotel Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Norcross, Georgia 30092.
Contact: Scott Mark
sestampexpo@gmail.com
www.sefsc.org

FEBRUARY 17-20
UK
Spring Stampex
Venue: Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH.
Contact: Graham Childs, PO Box 981, Southsea, Hampshire PO1 9PG
Tel: 023 9283 2289
info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

FEBRUARY 26-28
USA
Texpex 2016
Venue: Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, 1800 Highway 26E, Grapevine, Texas 76051
Contact: Vince King
vking@entechdesign.com
www.texasphilatelic.org/texpex

MARCH 18-20
AUSTRALIA
Canberra Stampshow 2016
Venue: Hellenic Club of Canberra, Matilda Street, Woden, Canberra.
Contact: Exhibition Secretary, Canberra Stampshow 2016, GPO Box 1840, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia
canberrastampshow2016@gmail.com
www.canberrastamps.org

APRIL 30–MAY 1
CANADA
Orapex
Venue: RA Centre, 2451 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
www.orapex.ca

MAY 12-14
GERMANY
Essen International Stamp Fair
Venue: Messehaus Ost, Essen Exhibition Centre, Norbertstrasse 2, 45131 Essen.
Contact: Jan Billion, Messeagentur, Postfach 108 254, 40863 Ratingen, Germany
Tel: +49 2102 50675
info@briefmarkenmesse-essen.de

MAY 28-JUNE 4
USA
World Stamp Show New York 2016
Venue: Jacob Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th Street, New York City, New York 10001.
Contact: Thomas M Fortunato
Tel: +1 585 225 6822
info@ny2016.org
www.ny2016.org

KAIHSU TAI

ABOVE: During a visit to Stampa 2015 in Ireland, why not visit Dublin's historic General Post Office building, which was at the centre of the Easter Rising in 1916?

Every care is taken to ensure the details published are accurate, but we cannot be responsible for any errors or cancellations. You are advised to check with the event organisers before setting out.

To include an event in this listing, we need at least two months' notice.
zEnterprise House, Enterprise Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HG.
E-mail: guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com

UK & WORLDWIDE AUCTION DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER 7
WARWICK & WARWICK
Venue: The Greville Suite, Lord Leycester Hotel, Jury Street, Warwick, CV34 4EJ.
Contact: Chalon House, Scar Bank, Millers Road, Warwick, CV34 5DB
Tel: 01926 499031
Fax: 01926 491906
info@warwickandwarwick.com
www.warwickandwarwick.com

OCTOBER 9
ARGYLL ETKIN
Peter Jennings Collections
Martin Lynes Collections
Venue: The Regus Conference Centre, 1 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2.
Contact: Patrick Frost
Tel: 020 7930 6100
Fax: 020 7930 6109
philatelists@argyll-etkin.com
www.argyll-etkin.com

OCTOBER 9
CHRISTOPH GÄRTNER
Venue: Steinbeisstrasse 6 & 8, 74321 Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany.
Contact: Philatelic Christoph Gärtner
Tel: +49 7142 789 400
Fax: +49 7142 789 410
info@auktionen-gaertner.de
www.auktionshaus-gaertner.de

OCTOBER 10
BIL & CO
Venue: Washingborough Community Centre, Fen Road, Washingborough, Lincoln LN4 1AB.
Contact: Bil Tilbury
Tel: 01400 230769
biltilbury@btinternet.com
www.bilandco.co.uk

OCTOBER 12
ROBERT MURRAY STAMP SHOP
Venue: Stewart's Melville Club Pavilion, 523 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DW.
Contact: Robert Murray Stamp Shop, 5-6 Inverleith Gardens, Edinburgh EH3 5PU
Tel: 0131 552 1220
murray@stamp-shop.com
www.stamp-shop.com

OCTOBER 14
AJH STAMPS
Venue: Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancashire BB5 5JP.
Contact: The Laurels, Manchester Road, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 2PF
Tel: 01254 393740
Fax: 01254 382274
sales@ajhstamps.co.uk
www.ajhstamps.co.uk

OCTOBER 16-17
HELLMAN
Venue: Hotel Crowne Plazza, Mannerheimintie 50, 00260 Helsinki, Finland.
Contact: Philatelic Service of Finland
Tel: +358 2 2547200
Fax: +358 2 2547220
myynti@filateliapalvelu.com
www.filateliapalvelu.com

OCTOBER 19-24
CHRISTOPH GÄRTNER
Venue: Steinbeisstrasse 6 & 8, 74321 Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany.
Contact: Philatelic Christoph Gärtner
Tel: +49 7142 789 400
info@auktionen-gaertner.de
www.auktionshaus-gaertner.de

OCTOBER 21
BSA AUCTIONS
Venue: Units 1 & 2 Cantilupe Court, Cantilupe Road, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 7AN.
Contact: BSA Auctions
Tel: 01989 769529
www.birmauctions.co.uk

OCTOBER 21
TENNANTS
Venue: The Auction Centre, Harmby Road, Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 5SG.
Contact: Tennants
Tel: 01969 623780
enquiry@tennants-ltd.co.uk
www.tennants.co.uk

OCTOBER 29-31
H R HARMER
Venue: Suite AB, 2680 Walnut Avenue, Tustin, California 92780, USA.
Contact: H R Harmer
Tel: +1 714 389 9178
Fax: +1 714 389 9189
info@hrharmer.com
www.hrharmer.com

OCTOBER 30
MARTELLO
Venue: Holiday Inn, Ashford, Kent TN24 8QQ.
Contact: Andrew Curd or Robert Uden
Tel: 01303 269712
info@martelloauctions.com
www.martelloauctions.com

OCTOBER 30
MOSSGREEN
Arthur Gray Collection of King George V
Venue: 926-930 High Street, Armadale, Victoria 3143, Australia
Contact: Gary Watson
Tel: +61 3 9508 8888
Fax: +61 3 9508 8899
mail@mossgreen.com.au
www.mossgreen.com.au

NOVEMBER 4
WARWICK & WARWICK
Venue: The Greville Suite, Lord Leycester Hotel, Jury Street, Warwick, CV34 4EJ.
Contact: Chalon House, Scar Bank, Millers Road, Warwick, CV34 5DB
Tel: 01926 499031
Fax: 01926 491906
info@warwickandwarwick.com
www.warwickandwarwick.com

NOVEMBER 9-12
GROSVENOR
Venue: 399-401 Strand, London WC2R OLT.
Contact: Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions
Tel: 020 7379 8789
Fax: 020 7379 9737
info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk
www.grosvenorauctions.com

NOVEMBER 11
AJH STAMPS
Venue: Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancashire BB5 5JP.
Contact: The Laurels, Manchester Road, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 2PF
Tel: 01254 393740
Fax: 01254 382274
sales@ajhstamps.co.uk
www.ajhstamps.co.uk

LOT TO BE DESIRED

Mossgreen's sale of the late Arthur Gray's collection of Australia from the King George V period will include many gems from the reign, such as this historic cover.

Postmarked in Sydney on May 1, 1924, it is widely regarded as being the first official first day cover of Australia, for the simple reason that this was the first time Australia Post had ever announced a first day of issue, for the 1d sage green definitive.

This new colour replaced the previous 1d violet, while the ½d orange alongside it on the cover was an existing stamp, having been issued a few months earlier in November 1923.

The lot is estimated at around £2,300, with bidding due to start at the equivalent of £1,700.

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE POSTAL SALES

APEX
Tel: 01342 833413
info@apexstamps.com
www.apexstamp.com

COUNTY
county@stampauctions.co.uk
www.stampauctions.co.uk

MOWBRAY
Tel: +64 6 364 8270
mowbray.stamps@xtra.co.nz
www.mowbrays.co.nz

SANDAFAYRE
Tel: 01565 653214
stamp@sandafayre.com
www.sandafayre.com

UNIVERSAL
Tel: 01451 861111
info@upastampauctions.co.uk
www.upastampauctions.co.uk

VANCE
Tel: +1 905 957 3364
mail@vanceauctions.com
www.vanceauctions.com

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ONLINE SALES

DALKEITH
www.dalkeith-auctions.co.uk

DELCAMPE
www.delcampe.net

McCUSKER
www.jamesmccusker.com

MOWBRAY
www.mowbrays.co.nz

PHILATINO
www.philatino.com

RASMUSSEN
www.bruun-rasmussen.dk

REGENCY
www.regencystamps.com

ROGERS
www.michaelrogersinc.com

SAMMARINESE
www.filsam.com

SANDAFAYRE
www.sandafayre.com

SKANFIL
www.skanfil.no

STAMP CENTER
www.thestampcenter.com

STAMPFAIR
www.stampfair.com

STANLEY GIBBONS
www.stanleygibbons.com

TORRES
www.antoniotorres.com

TRAFFORD BOOKS
www.traffordbooks.co.uk

Every care is taken to ensure the details published are accurate, but we cannot be responsible for any errors or cancellations. You are advised to check with the event organisers before setting out.

To include an event in this listing, we need at least two months' notice. Send details to What's On, *Stamp Magazine*, MyTimeMedia Ltd, Enterprise House, Enterprise Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HG. E-mail: guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com

UK FAIR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER 8

CARDIFF
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Methodist Church, Nottingham Street, CF5 1JP.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Dragon Collectors' Fairs
Tel: 01522 857343

LONDON
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Royal National Hotel, Galleon Suite, Bedford Way, Russell Square, WC1H 0DG.
Time: 9am-4pm
Contact: Kate Puleston
Tel: 020 8946 4489

OCTOBER 10

KETTERING
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: ISE Lodge Community Centre, St Vincent's Avenue, off Deeble Road, NN15 5DR.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Gordon Tregidgo
Tel: 01536 746800

NORTON
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, TS20 2QQ.
Time: 9.30am-1.30pm
Contact: Northern Stamp & Postcard Fairs
Tel: 01904 701464

MANCHESTER
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Sale Grammar School, Marsland Road, Sale, M33 3NH.
Time: 10am
Contact: George Wewiora
Tel: 0161 427 2101

READING
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: St Barnabas Hall, Grove Road, Emmer Green, RG4 8LN.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
Tel: 01895 637283

SHERBORNE
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Digby Memorial Hall, DT9 3NL.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: David Bryant
Tel: 01460 74422

TELFORD
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Belmont Community Hall, Wellington Centre, TF1 1LU.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Bob Hemmings
Tel: 01694 720192

THATCHAM
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Thatcham Memorial Hall, Bath Road (A4), RG18 3AG.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Paula Cant
Tel: 01256 415699

OCTOBER 11

HINCKLEY
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: John Cleveland College, Butt Lane, LE10 1LE.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Richard Flemming
Tel: 01455 613826

WOKINGHAM
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Crispin's Leisure Centre, London Road, RG40 1SR.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Nigel Stow
Tel: 01923 674999

OCTOBER 17

ALCESTER
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Benedict's High School, Kinwarton Road, B49 6PX.
Time: 10am
Contact: Alan Godfrey, Redditch Philatelic Society
Tel: 01789 765385

BRIGHTON
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Hove, BN1 5AE.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: M J Perriman
Tel: 01903 244875

PRESTON
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road (A6), PR3 5AA.
Time: 9.30am-4.00pm
Contact: John Roberts
Tel: 07943 174958

SITTINGBOURNE
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, off West Street, ME10 1JB.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

SUTTON COLDFIELD
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: The Trinity Centre, Church Hill, Mill Street, B72 1TF.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: JRS Fairs
Tel: 01785 259350

WICKHAM
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, PO17 5AL.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Julian Jones, Hampex
Tel: 01794 514902

OCTOBER 18

ALTRINCHAM
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Cresta Court Hotel, Church Street, WA14 4DP.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777

AMERSHAM
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Jubilee Scout Hall, Rectory Hill, HP7 0BT.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
Tel: 01895 637283

GREAT BARR
(first day covers)
Venue: Collingwood Centre, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Terry Barnett
Tel: 0151 4862610

KNOWLE
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: The Village Hall, St John's Close, B93 0NH.
Time: 9.30am-3pm
Contact: Dave Burnett
Tel: 07765 792998

LUTON
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Ramada Encore, Luton Airport, Airport Way, LU2 9LF.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Graham O'Hara
Tel: 07710 683122

UCKFIELD
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Ridgewood Village Hall, New Road, Ridgewood, TN22 5TG.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: M J Perriman
Tel: 01903 244875

OCTOBER 24

BECKENHAM
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Langley Park School, South Eden Park Road, BR3 3BP.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: David Rennie
Tel: 020 8778 7009

BEXHILL-ON-SEA
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Martha's Church Hall, Cooden Sea Road, Little Common, TN39 4SL.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: M J Perriman
Tel: 01903 244875

COLCHESTER
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Stanway Village Hall, Villa Road, CO3 0RH.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Peter Nason
Tel: 01206 570544

GREAT BARR
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, B43 7NF.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Dave Burnett
Tel: 07765 792998

RUISLIP
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, HA4 7DQ.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
Tel: 01895 637283

ST IVES
(stamps, postcards)
Venue: Corn Exchange, Market Hill, PE27 5AD.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: D Birkert
Tel: 01480 468037

WIMBORNE
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Allendale Community Centre, Hanham Road, BH21 1AS.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Brian Redpath
Tel: 01258 880878

OCTOBER 25

ASCOT
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: British Red Cross Centre, Heatherwood Hospital Entrance 3, Kings Ride, SL5 7RD.
Time: 9am-1pm
Contact: T Brittain
Tel: 07957 158299

HATFIELD
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Ramada Hatfield, St Albans Road West, AL10 9RH.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Graham O'Hara
Tel: 07710 683122

MAIDSTONE
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Royal British Legion Hall, British Legion Village, New Road, Aylesford, ME20 7NL.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: M J Perriman
Tel: 01903 244875

SOUTHPORT
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Royal Clifton Hotel, The Promenade, PR8 1RB.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777

WING
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Cottesloe School, Aylesbury Road, LU7 0NY.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
Tel: 01895 637283

OCTOBER 31

CHICHESTER
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Stockbridge Hall, Stockbridge Road, Donnington PO19 8SJ.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

EALING
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Polygon Complex, Ealing Parish Church, St Mary's Road, W5 5EU.

Every care is taken to ensure the details published are accurate, but we cannot be responsible for any errors or cancellations. You are advised to check with the event organisers before setting out.

Time: 9am-1pm
Contact: T Brittain
Tel: 07957 158299

KEYNSHAM
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: The Fear Institute, Keynsham High Street, BS31 1DG.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: Kevin Noble Fairs
Tel: 07599 001101

ROSS-ON-WYE
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Units 1 & 2, Cantilupe Court, Cantilupe Road, HR9 7AN.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: BSA Auctions
Tel: 01989 769529

NOVEMBER 1

ALTRINCHAM
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Cresta Court Hotel, Church Street, WA14 4DP.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777

MILTON KEYNES
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Milton Keynes Novotel, Saxon Street, Leyburn Court, Heelands, MK13 7RA.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Graham O'Hara
Tel: 07710 683122

PORTSMOUTH
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Cosham Community Centre, Wootton Street, PO6 3AP.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Solent Stamps
Tel: 01489 582673

WORTHING
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Heene Community Centre, 122 Heene Road, BN11 4PL.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

NOVEMBER 4

NEATH
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Town Hall, SA11 3LL.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Dragon Collectors' Fairs
Tel: 01522 857343

NOVEMBER 5

CARDIFF
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Methodist Church, Nottingham Street, CF5 1JP.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Dragon Collectors' Fairs
Tel: 01522 857343

NOVEMBER 6-7

STAFFORD
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Ingestre Suite, Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD.
Time: 10am-5pm (Friday) 10m-4pm (Saturday)
Contact: John Rice Stamps
Tel: 01785 259350

NOVEMBER 7

BECKENHAM
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, BR3 4DA.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: R&L Stamps
Tel: 020 8395 9285

BILLINGSHURST
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Billingshurst Community & Conference Centre, Roman Way, RH14 9EW.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: M J Perriman
Tel: 01903 244875

EXETER
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe, EX4 8PX.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Michael Hale
Tel: 01749 677669

HASTINGS
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Christ Church, London Road, St Leonard's-on-Sea, TN37 6GL.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

HUDDERSFIELD
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Thomas Community Centre, Manchester Road, Longroyd Bridge, HD1 3HU.
Time: 9.30am-4pm
Contact: A Campbell
Tel: 01484 681559

LEICESTER
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: The Holiday Inn, St Nicholas Circle, LE1 5LX.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: John Suschitzky
Tel: 0116 2350441

RAWRETH
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Parish Hall, Church Lane, SS11 8SH.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Steve Search
Tel: 01702 323682

SALISBURY
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: United Reform Church, Fisherton Street, SP2 7RG.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Solent Stamps
Tel: 01489 582673

STOURBRIDGE
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Platters Café, Victoria Street, DY8 1SP.
Time: 9.30am-2pm
Contact: Chris Proctor
Tel: 07813 260752

SWINDON
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Western Community Centre, Somerset Road, Rodbourne Cheney, SN2 1NF.
Time: 9.30am-3.30pm
Contact: V R Bullock
Tel: 07507 121990

UPMINSTER
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: St Lawrence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, RM14 2AJ.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Graham O'Hara
Tel: 07710 683122

WIGGINTON
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Wigginton Recreation Hall, The Village, YO32 2PJ.
Time: 9.30am-3pm
Contact: Northern Stamp & Postcard Fairs
Tel: 01904 701464

NOVEMBER 8

FELBRIDGE
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Felbridge Village Hall, Crawley Down Road, RH19 2NT.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

WOKINGHAM
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Crispin's Leisure Centre, London Road, RG40 1SR.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Nigel Stow
Tel: 01923 674999

NOVEMBER 11

CHELTENHAM
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Andrew's United Reform Church, Montpellier Street, GL50 1SP.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Mark Grimsley
Tel: 01179 623203

NOVEMBER 14

BRISTOL
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Shirehampton Public Hall, Station Road, Shirehampton, BS11 9TX.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Noble Fairs
Tel: 07599 001101

COLWYN BAY
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Eirias High School, Eirias Road, LL29 7SP.
Time: 9.30am-3pm
Contact: S J Chapman
Tel: 01745 826434

CRAWLEY
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, Woodfield Road, Northgate, RH10 8ER.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: M J Perriman
Tel: 01903 244875

LITTLEHAMPTON
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: United Church, 1 High Street, BN17 5EG.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

MAIDSTONE
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Grove Green Community Centre, Penshurst Close, ME14 5BT.
Time: 10am-3pm
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784

NORTON
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, TS20 2QQ.
Time: 9.30am-1.30pm
Contact: Northern Stamp & Postcard Fairs
Tel: 01904 701464

RUISLIP
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, HA4 7DQ.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
Tel: 01895 637283

SOUTHAMPTON
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: Methodist Hall, St James Road, Shirley, SO15 5HE.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: Solent Stamps
Tel: 01489 582673

NOVEMBER 15

ALTRINCHAM
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Cresta Court Hotel, Church Street, WA14 4DP.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: R Cudworth
Tel: 01484 866777

AMERSHAM
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Jubilee Scout Hall, Rectory Hill, HP7 0BT.
Time: 10am-4.30pm
Contact: David Milton
Tel: 01895 637283

KNOWLE
(stamps, postal history)
Venue: The Village Hall, St John's Close, B93 0NH.
Time: 9.30am-3pm
Contact: Dave Burnett
Tel: 07765 792998

NEWHAVEN
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Denton Social Centre, Denton, BN9 0PX.
Time: 10am-4pm
Contact: E G Langdon
Tel: 01273 514733

ROCHESTER
(stamps, postal history, postcards)
Venue: Masonic Hall, Gundulph Square, ME1 1QD.
Time: 10am-3.30pm
Contact: Chris Rapley
Tel: 07711 677760

Every care is taken to ensure the details published are accurate, but we cannot be responsible for any errors or cancellations. You are advised to check with the event organisers before setting out.

SELECTED UK PHILATELIC SOCIETY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

To include an event in this listing, we need at least two months' notice. Send details to What's On, *Stamp Magazine*, MyTimeMedia Ltd, Enterprise House, Enterprise Way, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6HG. E-mail: guy.thomas@mytimemedia.com

OCTOBER 8
BRISTOL PS
The £5 Orange by John Horsey
Venue: Redland Park United Reformed Church, Whiteladies Road, BS6 6SA.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Rosemary Atkins
Tel: 01179 504427

MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT PS
Saar 1935-48
Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone ME14 2AH.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784

OCTOBER 13
CRAWLEY & DISTRICT PS
Anglo Boer War by Brian Austin
Venue: Furnace Green Community Centre, Ashburnham Road, Furnace Green, RH10 6QZ
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Richard Smith
Tel: 01293 408598

ROCHDALE PS
Visit by Burnley PS
Venue: Unitarian Chapel, Clover Street, Rochdale OL12 6TP.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Neil Wharmby
Tel: 01706 665698

SOLIHULL PS
Greece in the Balkans Wars 1912-1913 by A Ritoridis
Venue: Solihull Cricket & Tennis Club, Marsh Lane, Solihull B91 2PF.
Time: 8pm
Contact: Paul Woodness
Tel: 01564 776 879

YORK PS
Elizabeth II Recorded Delivery by John Sussex
Venue: The Denham Room, Priory Street Centre, Priory Street, YO1 6ET.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Richard Billinge
Tel: 01904 411455

OCTOBER 14
BEDFORD PS
Liechtenstein by Fin O'Donoghue
Venue: The Bunyan Meeting Free Church, Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Julie Barnard
Tel: 01234 765092

OCTOBER 15
MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT PS
French Colonies Air Mail by Paul Cahill
Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone ME14 2AH.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784

OCTOBER 17
BURNLEY & DISTRICT PS
Postal History by Peter Rooke
Venue: Central Methodist Church, Hargreaves Street, Burnley BB11 1DU.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: B W Evans
Tel: 01282 437272

OCTOBER 20
SOLIHULL PS
Disinfected Mail in the Time of Cholera by D Vandervelde
Venue: Solihull Cricket & Tennis Club, Marsh Lane, Solihull B91 2PF.
Time: 8pm
Contact: Paul Woodness
Tel: 01564 776 879

OCTOBER 21
GRIMSBY & DISTRICT PS
New Zealand Part II by Kath Miller and Jay Loates
Venue: Grimsby Central Hall, Duncombe Street, Grimsby DN32 7EG.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Trevor Smith
Tel: 01469 572354

POYNTON PS
Canada in World War II by J Parkin
Venue: Education Block, Poynton Community Centre, 107 Park Lane, SK12 1RB.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Ron Phelps
Tel: 01625 877643

OCTOBER 22
MAIDSTONE & MID-KENT PS
Australia At War
Venue: St Paul's Church Hall, Boxley Road, Maidstone ME14 2AH.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Brian Stonestreet
Tel: 01622 675784

OCTOBER 27
CRAWLEY & DISTRICT PS
History of Australia by Brian Baldock
Venue: Furnace Green Community Centre, Ashburnham Road, Furnace Green, RH10 6QZ
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Richard Smith
Tel: 01293 408598

OCTOBER 28
BEDFORD PS
How to Present Competition Entries
Venue: The Bunyan Meeting Free Church, Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Julie Barnard
Tel: 01234 765092

BROMLEY & BECKENHAM PS
Russia by Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins
Venue: Public Hall, Bromley Road, Beckenham BR3 5JE.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Davie Rennie
Tel: 020 8778 7001

NOVEMBER 2
PETERSFIELD PS
GB Overprints, British Levant & Kuwait by Geoff Chivers
Venue: Petersfield Community Centre, Petersfield GU31 4BW.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Tony Shaw
Tel: 01730 264518

NOVEMBER 3
SOLIHULL PS
Ethiopia at War by S Kelly
Venue: Solihull Cricket & Tennis Club, Marsh Lane, Solihull B91 2PF.
Time: 2pm
Contact: Paul Woodness
Tel: 01564 776 879

NOVEMBER 4
GRIMSBY & DISTRICT PS
Ethiopia & Austria by Raoul Feld
Venue: Grimsby Central Hall, Duncombe Street, Grimsby DN32 7EG.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Trevor Smith
Tel: 01469 572354

SPALDING & DISTRICT SC
Dutch East Indies by John Jackson
Venue: The Frasier Room, Gosberton Road, Surfleet, PE11 4AB.
Time: 2pm
Contact: Frank Wilson
Tel: 01775 766117

NOVEMBER 5
BURNLEY & DISTRICT PS
Danzig in Ruins by Giles du Boulay
Venue: Central Methodist Church, Hargreaves Street, Burnley BB11 1DU.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: B W Evans
Tel: 01282 437272

NOVEMBER 10
CRAWLEY & DISTRICT PS
Churches of the Middle Ages by Brian Doherty
Venue: Furnace Green Community Centre, Ashburnham Road, Furnace Green, RH10 6QZ
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Richard Smith
Tel: 01293 408598

ROCHDALE PS
Central Europe by Derek Burton
Venue: Unitarian Chapel, Clover Street, Rochdale OL12 6TP.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Neil Wharmby
Tel: 01706 665698

NOVEMBER 11
BEDFORD PS
POW Mail of Singapore in World War II by David Tett
Venue: The Bunyan Meeting Free Church, Mill Street, Bedford MK40 3EU.
Time: 7pm
Contact: Julie Barnard
Tel: 01234 765092

BROMLEY & BECKENHAM PS
Umbrellas & Parasols by Michael Blackman
Venue: Public Hall, Bromley Road, Beckenham BR3 5JE.
Time: 7.30pm
Contact: Davie Rennie
Tel: 020 8778 7001

BROMLEY & BECKENHAM PS

Bromley & Beckenham Philatelic Society's first meeting of the new season saw an entertaining display by guest speaker Barbara Priddy about the development of airmail services in West Africa in the 1920s and 1930s.

The emphasis was on French services in the first half of the period, including the seaplane route to Natal in Brazil, and on German and British services in the second half, including Zeppelin flights to South America and Imperial Airways flights to South Africa.

The display featured rare and unusual postal history, such as first-flight covers for various routes and letters from a wide variety of destinations.

Visitors, guests and new members are always welcome at Bromley & Beckenham PS events. For details contact David Rennie. Tel: 020 8778 7001. Or visit www.beckenham.net/leisure.asp

ABOVE: Barbara Priddy and her display of early airmail services in West Africa

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£362,050

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£11,435

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S.G. 106
£36,200

$10 Postal Fiscal
S.G. F3
£4,950

Gold Omitted
S.G. 192a
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004 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
Christmas 2014

YOUR IN-DEPTH GUIDE TO THE LATEST RELEASES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

This directory lists Great Britain first, followed by other countries in alphabetical order. It is limited to countries in which stamp issues are sold in post offices and for which reliable information is available. We aim to keep our listing as up-to-date as possible, but in attempting to provide more comprehensive detail than other guides we do not necessarily list every country each month. The three-digit number which appears before the date of each issue is for cross-referencing with the Thematic Checklist at the end of this section.

GREAT BRITAIN
(last listed in Oct 2015)

001 July 16, 2015
75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain
Design: The Team (stamps), from photographs, and Supple Studio (sheet).
Printing: litho, International Security Printers. Two phosphor bands. Perf 14¼ x 14.
Miniature sheet (3 x 2):
1st (63p) pilots scramble to their Hawker Hurricanes
1st (63p) two Supermarine Spitfires of 610 Squadron, based at Biggin Hill, Kent, in close formation
1st (63p) Corporal Fred Roberts rearms a Spitfire (replacing ammunition boxes) whilst Pilot Sergeant Bernard Jennings talks to his mechanic
£1.33 ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service) spotters under training in aircraft identification, with binoculars, and identification chart
£1.33 Operations Room at Bentley Priory, London, headquarters of RAF Fighter Command
£1.33 pilots of 32 Squadron relax between missions, at Hawkinge, Kent
Border: Winston Churchill visiting coastal defence position near Hartlepool on July 31, 1940

002 Aug 18, 2015
Bees
Design: Anne Ekelund, from illustrations by Richard Lewington (sheet stamps) or wood engraving prints by Andy English (miniature sheet).
Printing: litho, International Security Printers. Two phosphor bands. Perf 14¼ x 14¼.
Sheet stamps:
2nd (54p) scabious bee, *Andrena hattorfiana*, on scabious flowerhead
1st (63p) great yellow bumblebee, *Bombus distinguendus*, on bird's-foot trefoil flower head
£1.00 northern colletes bee, *Colletes floralis*, on wild carrot flower head
£1.33 bilberry bumblebee, *Bombus monticola*, on bilberry flower head
£1.52 large mason bee, *Osmia xanthomelana*, on horseshoe vetch flower head
£2.25 potter flower bee, *Anthophora retusa*, on ground ivy flower head
Miniature sheet (4 x 1):
1st (63p) waggle dance: diagram of honey bees 'dancing' to convey direction and distance to flowers yielding nectar and pollen
1st (63p) pollination: bees on and around flower head of sunflower
£1.33 making honey: honey bees flying around beehive (next to hollyhocks)
£1.33 tending young: honeybees on honeycomb, feeding larvae with royal jelly
Border: bees and flowers
Miniature sheet has a rouletted detachable tab at left bearing barcode and paper certification information

003 Aug 18, 2015
Bees
Design: Anne Ekelund, from illustration by Richard Lewington (bee), or Jeffery Matthews (Machins).
Printer: International Security Printers, gravure. Die-cut perf 14 x 14¼ (bee), or 14.6 x 14 with elliptical cut-outs (Machins).
Self-adhesive booklet:
1st (63p) x 2 great yellow bumblebee, *Bombus distinguendus*, on bird's-foot trefoil flower head
1st (63p) x 4 Machin portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, red (codes 'M15L' and 'MCIL' in security overlay)

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
(last listed in Sept 2015)

004 Dec 29, 2014
Christmas 2014. Paintings by Raphael
Printing: litho.
Sheet stamps:
$2.25 *The Holy Family Beneath the Oak* (1518)
$3.50 *Madonna with the Blue Diadem* (1510-1511)
$5 *Incoronazione a Vergine, detta Pala Oddi* (detail, 1502-1504)
$5 the Aldobrandini *Madonna* (1510)

005 Jan 2, 2015
Parrots of the New World
Printing: litho.
Sheetlet (2 x 2):
$3.25 green breasted macaw, *Diopsittaca nobilis*
$3.25 hyacinth macaw, *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*
$3.25 blue and yellow macaw, *Ara ararauna*
$3.25 military macaw, *Ara militaris*
Sheetlet (4 x 1):
$3.25 blue-headed macaw, *Primolius couloni*
$3.25 blue-throated macaw, *Ara glaucogularis*
$3.25 hybrid of yellow breasted parrot and pale red parrot
$3.25 hybrid of yellow breasted parrot and small green macaw
Miniature sheet:
$5 harlequin macaw (hybrid of yellow breasted parrot and green-winged macaw)
$5 scarlet macaw, *Ara macao*
Miniature sheet:
$5 great green macaw, *Ara ambiguus*
$5 red and green macaw, *Ara chloroptera*

006 Jan 2, 2015
Colibris (Hummingbirds)
Printing: litho.
Sheetlet (1 x 4):
$3.25 *Selasphorus sasin* (on branch)
$3.25 *Selasphorus platycercus*
$3.25 *Cynanthus latirostris*
$3.25 *Archiolochus colubris* (head)
Sheetlet (1 x 4):
$3.25 *Celasphorus platycercus* (in flight)
$3.25 *Cynanthus latirostris* (head and breast)
$3.25 *Amazilia tzacati*
$3.25 *Selasphorus sasin* (in flight)
Miniature sheet (1 x 2):
$5 *Archiolochus colubris* (on branch)
$5 *Amazilia yucatanensis*
Miniature sheet (1 x 2):
$5 *Calypte anna* (seen from beneath)
$5 *Selasphorus callipe* (in flight)

007 Jan 2, 2015
Ducks
Printing: litho.
Sheetlet (2 x 2):
$3.25 ruddy shelduck, *Tadorna ferruginea* (standing, and in flight)
$3.25 white-backed duck, *Thalassornis leuconotus* (with eggs in nest)
$3.25 comb or keel-billed duck, *Sarkidiornis melanotus* (head, and in flight)
$3.25 fulvous whistling duck, *Dendrocygna bicolor* (swimming)
Sheetlet (2 x 2):
$3.25 Hartlaub's duck, *Pteronetta hartlaubii* (standing, and swimming)
$3.25 wood duck, *Aix sponsa* (standing, and head)
$3.25 common shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna* (walking, and swimming)

$3.25 mallard, *Anas platyrhunchos* (wading, and nesting)

Miniature sheet (2 x 1):

$5 white-faced whistling duck, *Dendrocygna viduata* (on one leg, and in flight)

$5 red-billed duck, *Anas enthrorhyncha* and yellow-billed duck, *Anas undulata*

Miniature sheet (2 x 1):

$5 Egyptian goose, *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

$5 southern or Chiloé widgeon, *Anas sibilatrix*, and northern pintail, *Anas acuta*

008 Jan 2, 2015

Corals

Printing: litho.

Sheetlet (2 x 2):

$3.25 solitary disk coral, *Scolymia cubensis*

$3.25 antler coral, *Pocillopora eydouxi*

$3.25 common mushroom coral, *Fungia fungites*

$3.25 common lettuce coral, *Pectinia lactuca*

Sheetlet (2 x 2):

$3.25 wide mesh sea fan, *Gorgonia sp* (violet)

$3.25 wide mesh sea fan, *Gorgonia sp* (orange)

$3.25 brain coral (grey-violet and green)

$3.25 brain coral (blue, rose-red and orange)

Miniature sheet (2 x 1):

$5 elkhorn coral, *Acropora palmata*

$5 orange cup coral, *Tubastraea coccinea*

Border: coral reef

Miniature sheet:

$10 great star coral, *Montastraea cavernosa*

Border: fish over reef

009 Jan 2, 2015

Chinese Lunar New Year. Year of the Ram

Designs: all designs show rams in faux Chinese style, with striped horns.

Printing: litho.

Sheetlet (2 x 2):

$3.25 ram with orange striped horns, and fruiting shrubs

$3.25 ram with rose-magenta striped horns, and fruiting shrubs

$3.25 ram with green striped horns, and flowers

$3.25 ram with yellow-olive striped horns, and fruits

Miniature sheet: circular perforated stamp.

$10 ram with red striped horns, and fruiting plants

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

(last listed in March 2014)

010 Feb 18, 2014

Centenary of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 4th issue. 1914: Homeward Bound

Design: Andrew Hogg Design, from archive pictures.

Printing: litho, RA Print.

Sheet stamps: sheets of 50, arranged in se-tenant strips of 5, with three different designs in positions 1-3 in each row and the first two designs repeated in positions 4-5.

60c Douglas Mawson and two other expeditionaries conducting scientific research with large circular-framed net (icefield in background)

60c group photograph of returning expedition members on board SY *Aurora*

60c portrait of Douglas Mawson, and signature

Sheet stamps: sheets of 50, arranged se-tenant with designs alternating across each row.

$1.20 Douglas Mawson, 1882-1958, sitting on side of a boat, and Adélie penguins

$1.20 Frank Hurley, 1885-1962, with ciné-camera on tripod filming the offshore SY *Aurora*

Maximum cards: set of 5 (photographs)

Miniature sheet (5 x 1):

$1.20, $1.20, 60c, 60c, 60c, designs as sheet stamps, arranged in se-tenant strip

Border: Hurley and other expeditionaries

Note: the miniature sheet also exists with gold foil border overprint of logo of Canberra Stamp Show 2014, privately overprinted

011 Feb 18, 2014

Centenary of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911-1914

Design: Andrew Hogg Design, from archive photographs.

Printing: litho, or litho and gold foil, RA Printing, Australia.

Sheetlet (5 x 4): 20 stamps arranged se-tenant, in different combinations from the original issues.

60c x 14 different designs from Australasian Antarctic Expedition issues of 2011 (5), 2012 (3), 2013 (3) and 2014 (3)

$1.20 x 6 different designs from Australasian Antarctic Expedition issues of 2012 (2), 2013 (2) and 2014 (2)

Sheetlet (5 x 4): 20 stamps arranged se-tenant, in different combinations from the original issues, with additional printing in gold foil.

60c x 14 different designs from Australasian Antarctic Expedition issues of 2011 (5), 2012 (3), 2013 (3) and 2014 (3)

$1.20 x 6 different designs from Australasian Antarctic Expedition issues of 2012 (2), 2013 (2) and 2014 (2)

Note: these two sheetlets were available only in a presentation pack, sold at A$47.50, which also contained the se-tenant strips of five as issued in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014

012 Sept 9, 2014

Era of th e Husky

Design: Jo Muré, from photographs.

Printing: litho, McKellar Renown. Perf 14.6 x 13.86 (gummed 70c designs) or 13.86 x 14.6 (gummed $1.40 designs), or die-cut perf 11.5 x 11.25 with cut-outs on horizontal sides (self-adhesives).

Gummed sheet stamps:

70c grey husky dog at rest in the Antarctic (horizontal format)

70c black-and-tan husky dog at rest in the Antarctic (horizontal format)

$1.40 husky team pulling sledge across icefield, accompanied by two men in orange clothing (vertical format)

$1.40 husky team pulling sledge across icefield, accompanied by two men in dark clothing (vertical format)

Maximum cards: set of 4 (photographs)

Miniature sheet:

70c, 70c, $1.40, $1.40, as sheet stamps but in se-tenant pairs

Border: crevasses at edge of icefield

Self-adhesive booklet (7.00): stamps affixed separately to inside covers in chequer arrangment.

70c x 5 grey husky dog at rest

70c x 5 black-and-tan husky dog at rest

Cover: husky team pulling sledge across icefield (as $1.40 stamp design)

013 May 16, 2015

Colours of the Australian Antarctic Territory

Design: Jo Muré, after photographs by Chris Wilson (70c values) or Ian Phillips ($1.40 values).

Printing: litho, RA Printing, Australia.

Gummed sheet stamps: sheets of 50 arranged in 25 se-tenant pairs.

70c icefield around mountain in vicinity of Mawson Base, 2011-2012

70c general view of Casey Station, 2007

$1.40 view of Casey Station in red light, 2007

$1.40 view to north of Davis Station with orange light, 2004-2005

Maximum cards: set of 4 (enlargements of stamp photographs)

Miniature sheet:

70c, 70c, $1.40, $1.40, designs as sheet stamps

CANADA

(last listed in May 2015)

014 Oct 29, 2014

Christmas 2014. Painting

Design: Louise Méthé.

Printing: litho, Lowe-Martin. Die-cut perf 13½. Non-denominated.

Self-adhesive booklet ($10.20): stamps affixed to inside covers.

P (85c) x 10 *The Virgin & Child with St John the Baptist*, by Abraham Janassens van Nuyssen

Cover: painting, as stamp motif

Note: painting from Parish Church of Nôtre Dame de Québec, on its 350th anniversary

015 Oct 29, 2014

Christmas 2014. Santa Claus

Design: Hélène L'Heureux, from illustrations by Christine Beauregard.

Printing: litho, Lowe-Martin. Die-cut perf 13 (booklet stamps) or perf 13 x 13¼ (miniature sheet).

Self-adhesive booklet ($7.20):

$1.20 x 6 flying Santa Claus with sack

Cover: text and barcode, head of flying Santa

Self-adhesive booklet ($10.20):

P (85c) x 10 Santa Claus replying to a letter, with quill pen

Cover: text and barcode, Santa holding quill pen

Self-adhesive booklet ($15.00):

$2.50 x 6 Santa Claus wearing robes of St Nicholas

Cover: text and barcode, Santa wearing mitre

Gummed miniature sheet (3 x 1 se-tenant):

P (85c), $1.20, $2.50, designs as booklet stamps, but gummed and se-tenant

016 Jan 8, 2015

Transition from Year of the Horse to Year of the Ram

Design: Hélène L'Heureux, from illustrations by

013 AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY
Colours of the Territory

012 AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY
Era of the Husky

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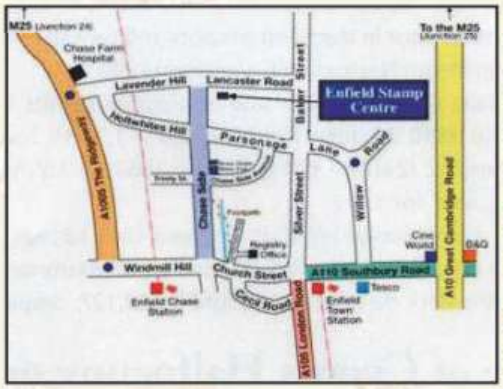

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Susan Scott, Ngan Siu-Mui (calligraphy) and Paprika (horse stamp).
Miniature sheet: 2 separately spaced stamps.
$1.85 prancing golden horse, in silhouette
$2.50 ram, in deep green and gold; Chinese character for horse
Border: horse and ram
Note: the Year of the Horse design was first issued on January 13, 2014

017 Jan 8, 2015
Chinese New Year. Year of the Ram
Design: Hélène L'Heureux, from illustrations by Susan Scott, and Ngan Siu-Mui (calligraphy).
Printing: litho and embossed with foil stamping (sheet stamp), or litho and embossed (miniature sheet), Lowe-Martin. Perf 12½ (sheet stamp), or die-cut perf 13¼ (booklet stamp).
Gummed sheet stamp: sheets of 25.
P (85c) three rams, in white, red and green
Gummed miniature sheet:
$2.50 ram, in deep green and gold; Chinese character for horse
Border: expanded version of the P value design
Self-adhesive booklet ($15.00): stamps separately affixed to inside covers, with illustrated white surround.
$2.50 x 6 ram, in deep green and gold
Cover: head of ram (from stamp motif)

018 Jan 11, 2015
Bicentenary of the Birth of John A Macdonald, First Prime Minister of Canada
Design: Paprika, and Image Asset Management.
Printing: litho, Canadian Bank Note. Die-cut perf 13. Non-denominated.
Self-adhesive booklet stamp:
P (85c) portrait of Sir John Alexander Macdonald, 1815 -1891, lawyer and Prime Minister of Canada from 1867-1873 and 1878-1891
Self-adhesive booklet ($8.50):
P (85c) x 10 portrait of Macdonald
Cover: portrait, as stamp motif
Note: born in Glasgow

019 Jan 30, 2015
Black History Month. Nelson Mandela
Design: Ian Drolet, after photograph by Yousuf Karsh.
Printing: litho, Canadian Bank Note. Die-cut perf 13 (booklet stamp) or perf 12½ x 13 (miniature sheet).
Self-adhesive booklet ($8.50): stamps affixed 4/6 to inside covers.
P (85c) x 10 portrait of Nelson Mandela in Canada, adapted from formal photograph taken in 1990, the year of his release from imprisonment, and flag of South Africa
Cover: detail of photograph
Gummed miniature sheet:
$2.50 portrait of Nelson Mandela in Canada, adapted from formal photograph taken in 1990, the year of his release from imprisonment, and flag of South Africa
Border: Mandela in a prison cell, Mandela and South African child
Note: Mandela was the first living person bestowed with honorary Canadian citizenship

020 Feb 15, 2015
50th anniversary of the Maple Leaf Flag of Canada
Design: Kosta Tsetekas and Defne Corbaciouglu (Signal Design), from photograph by Larry Goldstein (booklet stamp) or Mike Savage (miniature sheet).
Printing: litho, Lowe-Martin (booklet stamp) or litho on satin rayon fabric, Canadian Bank Note (miniature sheet).
Self-adhesive booklet ($8.50): 10 stamps affixed 6/4 to inside covers.
P (85c) x 10 Canadian flag of 1965, and '50'
Cover: Canadian flag (1965) and Clock Tower of the Canadian Parliament Building in Ottawa
Self-adhesive miniature sheet:
$5 Canadian flag of 1965
Note: the $5 was also made available in an uncut press sheet of 20 miniature sheets plus 3 single stamps, priced $115 (face value)

021 March 2, 2015
Pansies
Design: Marcio Morgado and Paulo Haslip (HM&E Design), from illustrations by Laurie Koss.
Printing: litho, Lowe-Martin. Die-cut imperf x perf 8 (coil stamps), die-cut perf 13¼ (booklet stamps) or perf 13 (miniature sheet). Non-denominated.
Self-adhesive coil stamps: designs affixed alternately, without spacing, on horizontal coil backing. Stamp format 21mm x 24mm.
P (85c) pansy Delta Premium Pure Light Blue
P (85c) pansy Midnight Glow
Self-adhesive booklet ($8.50): stamps affixed 5/5 to inside covers in 'blocks' of two pairs and one odd design, within illustrated surround which also has 10 circular illustrated stickers. Stamp format 32mm x 26mm.
P (85c) x 5 pansy Delta Premium Pure Light Blue
P (85c) x 5 pansy Midnight Glow
Cover: pansy Midnight Glow
Gummed miniature sheet (2 x 1):
P (85c) pansy Delta Premium Pure Light Blue
P (85c) pansy Midnight Glow

022 April 8, 2015
150 Years of Canadian Photography, 3rd issue
Design: Stéphane Huot.
Printing: litho, Canadian Bank Note. Die-cut perf 13¼ (booklet stamps) or perf 12½ (miniature sheets).
Self-adhesive booklet ($8.50): 10 stamps separately affixed 1/3/4/2 to inside covers, with plain grey and white surround.
P (85c) x 2 *Angels, St John the Baptist Day, Montréal*, by Sam Tata, 1962: girls in street procession
P (85c) x 2 *The Southam Sisters*, by Harold Mortimer-Lamb, c1915-1919
P (85c) x 2 *Friends & Family & Trips. In Front of Simpsons*, by Conrad Poirier, 1936: people gazing through window of department store
P (85c) x 2 *Isaac's First Swim, Lambton County, Ontario, Canada*, by Larry Towell, 1996: Isaac being held by his sister Naomi in the Sydenham River
P (85c) x 2 *Shoeshine Stand*, by Nina Raginsky, Vancouver, 1974
Cover: details from three of the photographs
Self-adhesive booklet $7.20): 6 stamps affixed 2/2/2 sideways to inside covers, with white surround.
$1.20 x 6 *Alex Colville on the Tantramar Marshes*, by Geoffrey James, 1970: the artist portrayed near Sackville, New Brunswick
Cover: text and barcode
Self-adhesive booklet ($15.00): 6 stamps affixed 2/2/2 sideways to inside covers, with white surround.
$2.50 x 6 *La Voie Lactée*, by Geneviève Cadieux, 1992: outdoor graffiti painting of woman's mouth, from Montréal
Cover: text and barcode
Gummed miniature sheet (1 x 4):
$1.20 *Alex Colville on the Tantramar Marshes*, by Geoffrey James, 1970
P (85c) *Angels, St John the Baptist Day, Montréal*, by Sam Tata, 1962
P (85c) *Isaac's First Swim, Lambton County, Ontario, Canada*, by Larry Towell, 1996
P (85c) *Friends & Family & Trips. In Front of Simpsons*, by Conrad Poirier, 1936
Gummed miniature sheet (1 x 3):
P (85c) *Shoeshine Stand*, by Nina Raginsky, Vancouver, 1974
$2.50 *La Voie Lactée*, by Geneviève Cadieux, 1992
P (85c) *The Southam Sisters*, by Harold Mortimer-Lamb, c1915-1919

CHRISTMAS ISLAND
(last listed in Dec 2014)

023 Jan 30, 2014
Chinese New Year. Year of the Horse, 2nd issue
Design: Dani Poon, from her papercuts.
Printing: digital print on 'silk'. Perf 14.6 x 13.8 right through sheet (gummed sheet), or imperforate (self-adhesive sheet).
Miniature sheet (2 x 1):
60c multicoloured horse in Chinese style, in shape of Chinese character for horse
$1.80 Chinese character for 'horse'
Border: Earth bearing horse emblem, text about Emperor Guang Zhong
Self-adhesive miniature sheet (2 x 1):
60c multicoloured horse in Chinese style, in shape of Chinese character for horse
$1.80 Chinese character for 'horse'
Border: Earth bearing horse emblem, text about Emperor Guang Zhong
Note: both miniature sheets were sold in a limited-edition Lunar New Year collection pack (priced $25), together with a regular litho-printed Year of the Horse miniature sheet (as issue of Jan 7, 2014). Unlike that issue, these 'silk' miniature sheets have no gold foil, just golden-yellow ink.

Note: Two intervening issues were listed in December 2014

024 Oct 31, 2014
Christmas 2014. Santa Claus & Red Crabs
Design: Gavin Ryan.
Printing: litho, RA Print, Australia. Perf 14.6 x 13.8 (gummed stamps), or die-cut perf 11.4 x 11.2 (self-adhesives).
Gummed sheet stamps:
65c Santa Claus holding a red crab, which is carrying a wrapped gift (bauble)
$1.80 crab with gift wrapped in blue paper tied with gold ribbon (inscribed 'International Post' in blue flash)

025 CHRISTMAS ISLAND
Chinese New Year

Singapore 1962 20c Copper-Banded Butterflyfish missing orange. Unique positional piece. SG71a. £2,300

Great Britain 1961 6d Parlimentary Conference missing gold. Fine unmounted mint. SG629a. £2,200

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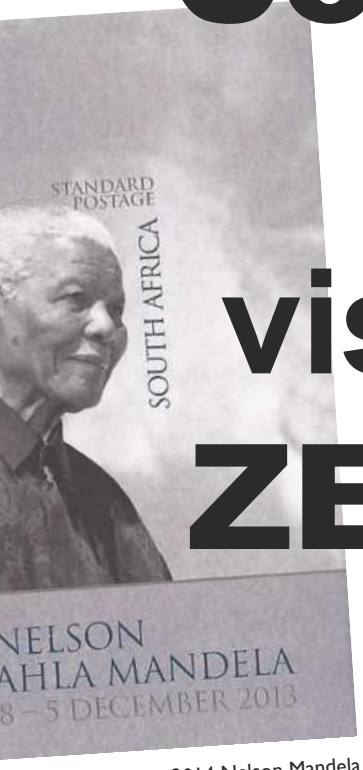

South Africa 2014 Nelson Mandela imperforate miniature sheet. New unrecorded discovery. £750

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Sarawak 1923 1c/10c Sir Charles Vyner Brooke 'cnet' surcharge variety. Scarce. SG72a. £550

Gummed miniature sheet (1 x 2):
$1.80, 65c, designs as sheet stamps, composite with border
Border: red crabs, with Santa hats, bringing gifts to place under Christmas tree, and reindeer
Self-adhesive sheetlet ($6.50): 10 stamps plus self-adhesive stickers.
65c x 10 Santa Claus holding a red crab, which is carrying a wrapped gift (bauble)
Stickers: 'Card Only'
Self-adhesive booklet ($9.00): sold as flat panel.
$1.80 x 5 crab with gift wrapped in blue paper tied with gold ribbon (inscribed 'International Post' in blue flash)
Cover: the stamp motif

025 Jan 8, 2015
Chinese New Year. Year of the Goat
Design: Dani Poon.
Printing: litho, and optically variable turquoise/deep emerald foil stamping, McKellar Renown.
Gummed sheet stamps: sheets of 50.
70c goat, outlined in turquoise and with turquoise horns
$2.10 Chinese character for 'goat', in turquoise
Miniature sheet (2 x 1):
70c, $2.10, designs as sheet stamps
Border: Chinese people taking a doe or nanny-goat to a wedding (as a gift)
Gummed sheetlet: comprising a se-tenant pair and a se-tenant block of 12 (arranged 6 x 2).
70c goat, outlined in turquoise and with turquoise horns
$2.10 Chinese character for 'goat', in turquoise
15c rat, in garnet
15c ox, aquamarine
30c tiger, insapphire
30c rabbit, in pearl
15c dragon, in amethyst
15c snake, in opal
30c horse, in topaz
25c goat, in emerald
25c monkey, in peridot
25c rooster, in citrine
25c dog, in diamond
30c pig, in ruby
Border: goddess in clouds catching gems, roses
Prestige booklet (sold at $14.95: 6 gummed panes, designs as sheetlet stamps.
Pane 1: 25c goat, 25c monkey, 70c goat with turquoise horns x 2
Pane 2: 25c rooster, 25c dog, 70c goat with turquoise horns x 2
Pane 3: 15c rat, 30c pig, 70c goat with turquoise horns x 2
Pane 4: 15c ox, 30c tiger, 70c goat with turquoise horns x 2
Pane 5: 15c dragon, 30c rabbit, 70c goat with turquoise horns x 2
Pane 6: 15c snake, 30c horse; 70c goat with turquoise horns x 2
Cover: goddess in clouds catching gems, roses
Note: each of the 12 'gemstone' designs in the sheetlet has a Chinese character in foil

COCOS (Keeling) ISLANDS
(last listed in April 2015)

026 March 24, 2015
Visiting Birds. WWF issue
Design: Owen Bell (illustrations) and John White (typography).
Printing: litho, RA Printing.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 50.
70c herald petrel, *Pterodroma heradlica*
70c oriental pratincole or swallow plover, *Glareola maldivanum*
70c little curlew, *Nhmenius minutus*, wading off mangrove coast, and in flight
70c Indian yellow-nosed albatross, *Thalassarche carteri*, in flight
Notes: all birds seen at Pulu Keeling National Park on North Keeling Island

GIBRALTAR
(last listed in Sept 2015)

027 May 13, 2015
Gibraltar Flag
Design: format as Post & Go issues of Great Britain.
Printing: pre-printed designs with service information added thermographically by machine.
Post & Go vending machine label: dispensed on plain buff backing paper.
- Gibraltar flag
Note: philatelic distribution was of a vertical strip of six (priced £6.24), all with machine code B002, denominated Local Standard, UK Letter up to 20g, UK Letter up to 40g, EU Letter up to 20g, Worldwide up to 20g and Registered Fee. The quoted date of issue represents sale from the Royal Mail B002 machine at London 2015 Europhilex exhibition; labels were not available in Gibraltar on that date, as no vending machine had been installed for public use, so first day covers are not postally authentic. The Worldwide up to 20g label has been reported with the inscription 'Wordwide' in error. Labels were available later in May from Gibraltar House in London, with appropriate machine-printed inscription

GUATEMALA
(last listed in Aug 2014)

028 Sept 27, 2013
Rodolfo Galeotti Torres, 1912-1988
Printing: litho, Taller Nacional de Grabados en Acero (TNGA).
Sheet stamps: sheets of 56.
0.50Q portrait of the sculptor, and monumental relief *La Puerta de Saber*

029 Oct 11, 2013
Sagas & Legends of Guatemala. UPAEP issue
Design: Marvin Olivares.
Printing: litho, TNGA.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 56.
1.00Q El Sombrerón: the eternal lover playing his guitar beneath a giant sombrero
5.00Q La Tatuana: slave girl escaping from the Inquisition's prison using a magic boat she has drawn on the cell wall
8.00Q La Llorona: the white woman (or weeping woman), normally trapped in the spirit world, making one of her appearances in the living world
10.00Q El Gran Viento Xocomil: the storm wind of Lake Atitlán which rises at 5pm every day, to sweep away the sins of lakeside villagers

030 Nov 14, 2013
Christmas 2013. Crib Figures
Design: figures appear to be cloth dolls.
Printing: litho, TNGA. Stamps are diamond format.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 70.
2.00Q two angel figures
3.00Q four figures with gifts, behind baby Jesus

031 Dec 3, 2013
250th anniversary of the City of Villa Nueva
Design: posterised adaptation of photograph by Carlos Jacinto.
Printing: litho, TNGA.
Sheet stamps:
6.50Q Parish Church of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, Villa Nova, anniversary emblem and coat of arms

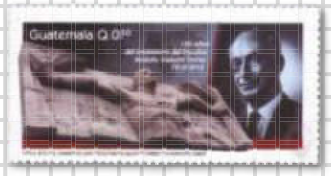
032 Jan 14, 2014
Endangered Species. The Guatemalan Fir
Design: Ziomara de León, from photograph by INAB.
Printing: litho, TNGA.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 72 arranged in 36 se-tenant pairs with composite design.
5.00Q Guatemalan fir, *Abies guatemalensis*: trees in rain forest, detail of bark, detail of seeds
5.00Q forest, seed, cones on branch
Note: this species is almost completely non-resistant to frost, so its conservation is problematic. In Guatemala it has been decimated by logging activity

033 Feb 5, 2014
450th anniversary of Jesus Nazareno de Candela
Design: Ziomara de León, from photograph by José C Flores.
Printing: litho, TNGA.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 63.
0.20Q 'miraculous' gilded statue of Jesus carrying cross, from Parish Church of Our Lady of Candelaria, Guatamala City

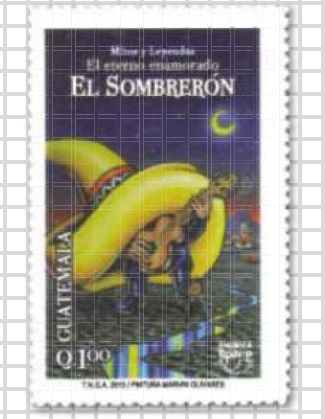
034 March 4, 2014
Guatemalan Gastronomy
Printing: litho, TNGA.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 81.
2.00Q plátanos en mole: fried plantains with unsweetened chocolate, chili and tomatillo sauce
5.50Q kaq ik: turkey drumsticks in spicy tomato sauce
6.00Q pepián: rich spicy stew including vegetables and fruits, plus accompanying side dishes
10.00Q jocón: chicken in tomatillo and cilantro sauce

035 March 28, 2014
The Numismatic Museum, Guatemala City
Design: Ziomara de León.
Printing: litho, TNGA.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 70.
0.50Q pre-Columbian carved stele (stone tablet), Guatemalan gold and silver coins, 19th-century 1Q banknote (depicting national leaders), archway

027 GIBRALTAR
Gibraltar Flag



028 GUATEMALA
Rodolfo Galeotti Torres



029 GUATEMALA
Sagas & Legends

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036 April 3, 2014
Handicrafts of Guatemala. Jade
Design: all designs show museum exhibits.
Printing: litho, TNGA.
Sheet stamps: arranged in se-tenant strips of 3 with composite design.
0.50Q jade bangle, and jade sculptures
0.50Q jade mask, jade buttons
0.50Q jade ring, jade statuette (deity)

037 July 4, 2014
Species in Danger of Extinction. Abronia
Designs: photographs by Lester Melèndez.
Printing: litho, TNGA.
Sheet stamps:
1.00Q *Abronia vasconselosi*
5.00Q *Abronia fimbriata*
6.50Q *Abronia meledona*
10.00Q *Abronia frosti*
Note: small arboreal alligator-lizards endemic to central America

038 Aug 4, 2014
Campaign Against Discrimination. UPAEP issue
Design: Ziomara de León.
Printing: litho, TNGA.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 64.
1.0Q four stylised human figures, and creased Guatemalan flag

039 Aug 12, 2014
Scenery of Guatemala. Lakes & Mountains
Design: from photographs by Lester Melèndez (1.00Q), Estuardo Vila (3.00Q), Alfredo Mackenney (6.50Q) and Danny Aguilar (8.00Q).
Printing: litho, TNGA.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 70.
1.00Q volcanoes of Fuego and Acatenango
3.00Q lake scene, Laguna el Pino, Santa Rosa
6.50Q lake scene, Laguna Madalena, Huehuetenango
8.00Q lake scene, Laguna Chicabal, Quetzaltenango

040 Nov 21, 2014
400th Anniversary of the Virgen del Carmen Hermitage, Guatemala City
Design: Ziomara de León.
Printing: litho, TNGA.
Miniature sheet: design composite with border.
10.00Q Cerrito de la Virgen del Carmen, and two historic views of the 16th-century hermitage

041 Nov 25, 2014
Christmas 2015. Altarpiece from the Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Guatemala City
Printing: litho, TNGA.
Sheet stamps:
6.50Q detail from altarpiece: Holy Family with the Magi
8.00Q detail from altarpiece: Holy Family with angels, shepherds and cattle

042 Dec 10, 2014
National Leaders. UPAEP issue
Design: Marvin Olivares (paintings).
Printing: litho, TNGA.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20.
0.20Q Juan José Arévalo, 1904-1990, teacher and politician, the first popularly elected President of Guatemala in 1945 after the 1944 revolution
10.00Q Juan Matalbatz, Mayan leader in early part of 16th century

IRELAND
(last listed in Oct 2015)

043 July 30, 2015
Centenary of the Funeral Oration by Pádraig Pearse at the Grave of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, August 1, 1915
Design: from contemporary photograph, Red&Grey Design.
Printing: litho, Cartor.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 16.
70c Pearse delivering his speech at Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin
Note: republican speech which ended with the words 'Ireland unfree shall never be at peace'. O'Donovan Rossa was a founding member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (Fenians)

JERSEY
(last listed in Oct 2015)

044 Aug 4, 2015
Centenary of the Great War, 2nd issue. Developments & Changes to the Conduct of War
Design: Chris Ede.
Printing: litho, Cartor.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 10.
47p mechanisation: cavalryman, and tank crossing trenches
54p communication: signalman using semaphore flags, and field telephone
64p camouflage: armed vessel at sea, partly camouflaged, partly uncamouflaged
73p uniforms: outdated military uniform, and contemporary uniform in khaki, with webbing and pockets
85p observation: observers in balloon, and biplane
95p tactics of war: battle plan (map) with free movement of forces arrowed, and static front line with trenches and barbed wire, soldier's helmet
Miniature sheet (3 x 2):
47p, 54p, 64p, 73p, 85p, 95p, designs as sheet stamps
Miniature sheet: design composite with border.
£1 sea plane (biplane fitted with float)
Border: coastal fortifications and portrait of Flight Lieutenant Charles Stanley Mossop, DSC, in flying uniform (from the Victoria College Book of Remembrance)
Note: Jersey-born Mossop was the first pilot ever to sink an enemy submarine from the air, in 1917

045 Aug 6, 2015
Sark. 450 Years as a Fief to the Crown
Design: Nick Shewring.
Printing: litho, BDT.
Miniature sheet:
£1.50 De Carteret coat of arms
Border: St Ouen's Manor, Jersey (view from lake)
Note: the Seigneur of St Ouen, Helier de Carteret, was granted an inheritable fief over the island of Sark on August 6, 1565, on condition that he colonised the island and took responsibility for its defence

LITHUANIA
(last listed in Oct 2015)

046 July 18, 2015
International Year of Ethnography. Costume Patterns
Design: R Auskalnyte, depicting traditional knit patterns from different ethnographic regions.
Printing: litho, Garsu Pasaulis, Vilnius.
Miniature sheet: 5 stamps arranged 2,3, se-tenant, with illustrated border.
0.75€ Mazhoji knit pattern
0.75€ Zhemaitija knit pattern
0.75€ Aukshtaitija knit pattern
0.75€ Svualkija knit pattern
0.75€ Dzhukija knit pattern

MOLDOVA
(last listed in July 2013)

047 July 21, 2012
London 2012 Olympic Games
Design: Vitalie Pogolsa.
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
4.50L free-style wrestling
5.40L cycling
Note: both designs bear official London Olympics logo in pink

048 Aug 10, 2012
Roses
Design: Vitalie Rosca
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau. Perf 12¾ x 12¾ with elliptical cut-outs on horizontal sides
Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
85b Mildred Scheel: red rose
1.20L Friesia: yellow rose
3.00L Priscilla: pale pink rose
4.20L Caribia: red-pink rose
Sheetlet (3 x 2): with illustrated border.
0.85b x 2 Mildred Scheel (positions 1, 3)
1.20L x 2 Friesia (positions 4, 6)
3.00L Priscilla (position 2)
4.20L Caribia (position 5)
Border: Mildred Scheel and Priscilla roses

049 Aug 27, 2012
Personalities
Design: Elena Karacentev.
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
85b Eugeniu Ureche, 1917-2005, actor, theatrical director, singer and painter: portrait and playing four different roles
1.20L Spiridon Mocanu, 1932-2007, dancer, choreographer, ballet-master: portrait, and dancing (in national costume) in four different scenes
4.50L George Emil Palade, 1912-2008, Romanian-American biologist: portrait and scientific figure
8.50L Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 1712-1778, French philosopher and writer: portrait and pages/covers from works
Note: Palade was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology & Medicine in 1974 for cell biology, and the US National Medal of Science in 1986

050 Sept 7, 2012
Maria Biesu, 1935-2012
Design: Elena Karacentev.

043 IRELAND
Funeral Oration by Pádraig Pearse

044 JERSEY
Centenary of the Great War

046 LITHUANIA
Costume Patterns

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MLC PO BOX 25 BOGNOR REGIS PO21 3YU

Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
1.20L portrait of the opera singer, and in performance
Border: red roses and extracts from musical scores

051 Sept 21, 2012
National Monuments of Moldova
Design: Alexander Kornienko, illustrating protected landscapes and features.
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
1.20L canyon of Cheile Butesti
4.20L grass-covered grave mounds near the River Prut at Suta de Movile
7.00L interior of Emil Racovita caves

052 Dec 1, 2012
Christmas. Icons from the National Museum of Archaeology & History
Design: Alexander Kornienko.
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheetlet: 8 stamps and 1 central label.
1.75L nativity scene (icon of 1903)
Label: village in snow, and music
Sheetlet: 8 stamps and 1 central label.
5.40L nativity scene (19th century icon painting, showing Holy Family and shepherds)
Label: star hanging decoration (with Madonna) and music

053 Dec 12, 2012
Kilometre Zero in Chisinau
Design: Vitalie Leca.
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 20 (5 x 4).
1.75L Kilometre Zero monument/survey marker in Chisinau, which has a golden sun decoration

054 Jan 15, 2013
Mihai Eminescu, 1850-1889
Design: Simeon Zamsa.
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheetlet: 8 stamps and 1 label.
1.75L portrait painting of the Romanian poet and journalist by Emil Cheldescu (1982), from National Museum
Label: quill pen and manuscript
Sheetlet: 8 stamps and 1 label.
5.75L *Dedicatie*, painting of a dedication ceremony by Vasile Nascu (1989), from Moldovan National Art Gallery
Label: books in stack

055 Feb 28, 2013
RSS
Design: Vitaly Pogolsa.
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
4.50L PCC (RSS) logo, outline map of Moldova, transmission mast and satellite dish
Note: regional telecommunications authority

056 March 30, 2013
Fruiting Shrubs
Design: Tatiana Gorbatenkaia (paintings of fruiting berry bushes or canes).
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 20 (4 x 5).
55b gooseberry, *Ribes uva-crispa*
1.50L bilberry, *Vaccinum myrtillus*
1.75L guelder rose, *Viburnum opulus*
1.75L raspberry, *Rubus idaeus*
2L sea buckthorn, *Hippophae rhamnoides*
4L redcurrant, *Ribes rubrum*

057 April 30, 2013
Europa 2013. Postal Transport
Design: Vladimir Melnik (drawings).
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
4.50L Lada Zhiguli post van
5.75L horse-drawn four-wheeled post wagon (17th century)
Booklet: 2 miniature sheet panes loose in card cover.
Pane 1: 4.50L x 4 Lada Zhiguli post van
Border: early and modern aircraft and post trucks, balloon, airship
Pane 2: 5.75L x 4 horse-drawn post wagon
Border: pigeons, bicycles, post-rider, stage coach
Cover: Lada Zhiguli

058 May 13, 2013
35th anniversary of Chisinau Zoo. Animals
Design: Vitalie Rosca.
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheet stamps:
1.75L snow leopard, *Panthera uncia*
2L Bennett's wallaby, *Macropus rufogriseus*
Miniature sheet: 1 stamp and 1 label (1 x 2).
5.75L peacock, *Pavo cristatus*
Label and border: peacock displaying

059 June 1, 2013
Year of Spiridon Vangheli
Design: Vitaly Pogolsa, after illustrations by Octavia Taralunga for Vangheli's *Guguta Tales* books for children.
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheet stamps:
1.75L illustration from *Cusma Lui Guguta* (The Cap of Guguta), showing peasants in snow discovering a giant fungus-like cap sheltering a crowd of people
1.75L illustration from *Datoria Lui Guguta* (The Duties of Guguta), showing children in snow in ritual activity

060 June 20, 2013
Traditional Customs & Rituals
Design: Simeon Zamsa.
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheet stamps:
1.75L papanuda: ritual dance to summon the rain
1.75L curatare a fintinilor: ritual cleaning of the dip-wells

061 July 5, 2013
Exotic Butterflies & Moths
Design: Alexandru Kornienko.
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau. Stamps are diamond format, perf 13.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 9 (3 x 3) with decorated borders.
1L great owlet or white witch moth, *Thysania agrippina* (native to Central America)
1.75L green swallowtail butterfly, *Papilio blumei* (native to Indonesia)
1.75L blue mother-of-pearl or eastern blue butterfly, *Salamis temora* (native to Africa)
5.75L scalloped red glider butterfly, *Cymothoe excelsa* (native to Africa)
Sheetlet (3 x 3): 8 stamps and 1 label (in position 1), arranged in diamond format.
1L x 2 great owlet or white witch moth (positions 4, 6)
1.75L x 2 green swallowtail butterfly (positions 3, 4)
5.75L x 2 scalloped red glider butterfly (positions 5,9)
1.75L x 2 blue mother-of-pearl or eastern blue butterfly (positions 7,8)

062 July 20, 2013
Personalities
Design: Elena Karacenteva.
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheet stamps:
1.75L Adrian Paunescu, 1943-2010, Romanian poet, journalist and politician: portrait and making speech
1.75 Anton Crihan, 1893-1993, politician: portrait and building
Note: Crihan was a member of the Romanian Parliament for Bessarabia (now Moldova) in the 1940s, and emigrated to USA after the Communist takeover in 1949

063 Aug 28, 2013
Personalities
Design: Elena Karacenteva.
Printing: Nova Imprim, Chisinau.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
1.75L Ion Bass, 1933-2005, folk singer: portrait and in performance
1.75L Angela Paduraru, 1938-1995, folk singer, recording artist: portrait and in perforamance
4.50L Giuseppe Verdi, 1813-1901, Italian operatic composer: portrait and opera scene
4.50L Richard Wagner, 1813-1893, German composer, conductor and impresario: portrait and opera scene
Miniature sheet (2 x 1): 1 stamp with se-tenant label.
5.75L Alexei Mateevici 1888-1917, priest, theologian, poet: portrait in clerical robes
Label: bookplate with words of poem, now the Moldovan national anthem

MONACO
(last listed in July 2015)

064 May 22, 2013
Giuseppe Verdi, 1813-1901
Design & Engraving: Claude Andreotto.
Printing: recess, French Stamp Printing Works (PhilaPoste), France.
Sheetlet (2 x 3):
1.55€ x 6 portrait of the Italian operatic composer, and scene from the opera *La Traviata*

065 May 22, 2013
Richard Wagner, 1813-1883
Design & Engraving: Pierre Albuisson.
Printing: recess, PhilaPoste, France.

053 MOLDOVA
Kilometre Zero

057 MOLDOVA
Postal Transport

059 MOLDOVA
Year of Spiridon Vangheli

EXP 14. THE BRITISH - ICELANDIC EXPEDITION A scarce expedition cover for the British - Icelandic expedition of 1981. This is the official illustrated cover flown from the UK to KEFLAVIC (Iceland) and bears the P.O. expedition postmark. The cover has been additionally signed by Mike Todd, (Chairman of the B.S.A.C.) An important postal history cover for sale .... Price £12.

M19A MAURITIUS A fine specialised collection of Mauritius stamps, including several unmounted mint blocks plus singles. Mainly QEII unm. mint, but includes earlier stamps and some used. A great collection to build on with over 100 Mauritius stamps, unchecked for catalogue value.....Price £12.

SH337 SUPER HEROES A spectacular collection of Super Heroes on stamps including: Superman, Catwoman 'X-Men', Titans, The Incredible Hulk, Spiderman plus others. Noted, Jersey 'Man of Steel' also various miniature sheets & mint and used stamps. The whole collection Price £19.50.

GB85 GREAT BRITAIN An important error on the 1966 Battle of Hastings 6d. value. The wrong colour gold leaf was used in error on the Queens Head. Error – yellow gold instead of normal bronze gold. We can offer the unmounted mint error plus normal stamp for comparison ..... Price £7.50.

CYL29 CYLINDER NUMBER BLOCKS A specialized collection of Great Britain & British Commonwealth cylinder number blocks. It is unusual to see such a large lot of different cylinder number blocks. 120 stamps in all unmounted mint cylinder number blocks .....Price £21.

LA39K BRITISH ISLES A phenomenal & valuable collection of British Local Island's stamps. Only unmounted mint, including Lundy Island, Davaar Island, Cairn Iar, Isle of Easdale, Bernera Island, Staffa, Stroma, Isle of Pabay, Bardsey, Herm, Calf of Man, Hildasay – Shetland Islands, Jethou, Brechou, Alderney, St Kilda, St Marys, Calvey Island, Sanda Island, Gugh, St Martins. With blocks, multiples, singles & miniature sheets. This important & valuable collection with only unmounted mint stamps and many high £ values. The nominal face value is well over £200.....Price £47.25.

R28 BRITISH COMMONWEALTH PROOFS: A specialised and most valuable collection of Printers PROOF STAMPS AND PROGRESSIVE PROOF STAMPS some stuck down on special Printers Cards together with Official authorised verification & check signatures. Rarely does such a precious collection get offered for sale, a total of TWENTY PROGRESSIVE PROOFS plus various Proofs..... Price £42.00

PH 165 GREAT BRITAIN POSTAL HISTORY POSTMISTRESS COVER A scarce cover signed by Doris Gray, The Postmistress of Haroldswick Post Office. A special Royal Mail Commemorative Stamp was produced in 1997 for Haroldswick P.O, the most northernly post office in Britain, specially postmarked by the Royal Mail at Unst. Shetland Island. Only 200 of this scarce cover were postmarked and signed by the Postmistress nearly two decades ago. Rarely offered for sale.....Price £10.

JOR.43K - JORDAN & TRANS JORDAN A superb collection of only unmounted mint stamps in blocks, pairs and singles. Impressive Trans Jordan early engraved stamps in blocks, following on to later Jordan issues. Over 100 stamps ..... Price £13.75

Z33E UNORTHODOX STAMPS One of the most unusual collections we have ever seen assembled, with everything except normal stamps. Including triangular stamps, self adhesive 'free form', map shaped stamps, gold foil round (circular) stamps, diamond shapes, '3 dimensional' and others. Hundreds of different mint and used unorthodox stamps Price £13.

PM22 - HAROLD WILSON Scarce GB Political Cover, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Election of Harold Wilson as Prime Minister. The cover is illustrated with the iconic "*Labour will get things done*" poster and bears Royal Mail, Wilson stamps with official first day post mark and famous Harold Wilson quote: "*The main essentials of a successful prime minister are sleep and a sense of history.*" Only fifty of this cover are known to exist, reposted on 16/10/14 with official Royal Mail "Big Ben" postmark exactly fifty years to the day of his first election victory. . . . . Price £14

GB 32EP GREAT BRITAIN ACID RAIN ERROR STAMP A super GB stamp error has recently come to light. The error a "must" for any complete GB collection shows a "full stop" at the base of the 24p denomination. As it is a constant error only one such stamp appears in each sheet of 100 stamps. So, it is 99 times scarcer than the normal stamp (SG 1629) Many serious GB stamp collectors are now realising that their collections are incomplete without this important value denomination variety. We offer the Acid Rain error stamp, together with normal stamp for comparison. Price £8.75

KG6. H2 KING GEORGE VI An impressive Collection of GB & British Colonial Stamps issued during King Geo VI reign. Mainly singles but includes some fine unmounted mint blocks. A vast range of countries covering the period 1937 - 1951. Hundreds of stamps (not counting extra stamps of earlier reigns). A great collection to build on .....Price £16.50

MS. 561 GB MINI SHEETS A specialised Collection of Great Britain Stamp Exhibition Miniature Sheets. Comprising of over a dosen mint miniature sheets issued for British Stamp Exhibitions. Include Stampex and International Exhibitions with Royal Mail postally valid sheets & scarcer sheets with post office approval; which were not available generally from the Royal Mail. The whole collection Price £9.75

WW1. 3K - WORLD WAR I LORD KITCHENER POSTAL HISTORY COVER A special cover for the centenary of the Gibraltar Garrison, The Staffordshire Brigade served under Kitchener in the 2nd Sudanese War, then continued during World War I at the Garrison in Gibraltar. This scarce postal history cover bears a British WWI commemorative stamp with Lord Kitchener "*Your Country Needs You*" illustrated Royal Mail postmark. Unusually, the cover also bears a Gibraltar Garrison Centenary cachet in red. Only 100 covers were ever issued and many in Gibraltar collector's hands..... Price £15.

Did you miss the boat or did you take our advice?

In 1973 we recommended and sold the British definitive 1/2p (SGX842) with one phosphor band on side. We told our customers to buy them at 25p each. WE WERE RIGHT!! If you had taken our advice, for an outlay of only £150 in 1973, the current catalogue value of your investment would be a staggering total of £20,000.

In 1999 we recommended our customers to buy the Princess Diana Welsh Language Presentation Packs. The catalogue value was only £2.50 each, but we were telling our customers to buy them for up to double catalogue value £5 each. Within only 6 years they had increased by 3,900%.

As everyone knows, investments can go down as well as up and the past is not necessarily a guide to the future. However, being selective and taking sound advice is the best way to make your hobby pay for itself.

In 2003 we recommended our customers to buy the Coronation £1 Green (SG 2380) which was catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at £1.50 per stamp. Within 1 year the catalogue value had increased to £50 per stamp, an increase of over 3,200%.

Our customers complemented us once again saying, "Thank you again you were right".

M27A CORONATION STREET A specialised most unusual thematic collection of Coronation Street Stamps with COMPLETE UNM, MINT SETS. From various British Local Islands, including scarcer High Values and several £1.00 values. Personalities depicted on stamps include: Jack & Annie Walker, Stan & Hilda Ogden, Ken & Irma Barlow, Jack & Vera Duckworth, Martha Longhurst, Ena Sharples, Mike & Alma Baldwin, Kevin Webster, Raquel Wolstenholme, Ray Langton, Liz McDonald, Alf Roberts, Bet Gilroy, Curly Watts, Emily Bishop, Martin Platt, Leonard Swindly, Elsie Tanner, Reg Holdsworth + others.....Price £12.00

LOT K2 GREAT BRITAIN UNMOUNTED MINT COMMEMORATIVES & DEFINITIVES UNSORTED ACCUMULATION. Items noted includes Traffic Light Gutter Pair Missing Phosphor Error coil strips. Well over 500 stamps only unmounted mint ..... Price £21

ATH6 GREECE A colossal collection of Greek stamps from early issues to modern. Many older unmounted mint stamps including scarcer overprinted issues. There must be well over 500 different stamps of Greece including mint and used .....Price £23.

E56 LUNDY ISLAND A VAST HOARD of Unmounted Mint Sheets, blocks, multiples includes imprints gutter pairs etc. from 1953 to about 1962 - Heavy duplicated Mass, must be 600+ stamps .....Price £35.

E.28 POSTAGE DUES Unusual collection of POSTAGE DUE stamps, including GB, Br Cols and Foreign. In singles, blocks of multiples, all uncat. Mint (mostly unmounted) and used. About 120+ stamps ..... Price 8.00

E.32 GREAT BRITAIN SPECTACULAR ERROR on 1966 XMAS 3d. Value (SG713) SHIFT OF GOLD COLOUR, causing Queens Head Shift Error, superb unmtd mint together with normal stamp for comparison.....Price £4.25

VCA 4 - GREAT BRITAIN WWI VICTORIA CROSS COVER Issued to commemorate the Centenary of the first Victoria Cross to be awarded in World War I. The cover with illustration of Lieut. Maurice Dease VC. who died aged 24 in the first battle fought by the British against the Germans at Mons on 4. 23 Aug 1914. The cover bears a special Royal Mail VC stamp and postmarked with official Victoria Cross "For Valour" postmark on 23 Aug 14. The cover was restricted issue of only 100 covers and is vital to complete any WWI collection ..... Price £9.25

EL54. ELEPHANTS A gorgeous collection of elephants on stamps. With Indian and African elephants on stamps (Might include the odd mammoth). Mostly modern but dates back to KGVI. With blocks and singles, mint and used. Over 100 stamps..... Price £7

SP27X SPACE Space, the final frontier. A small but impressive collection of outer space and space exploration camps. Including original 1969 moon landing cover and People's Republic of China space covers. Over 100+ mint and used stamps and miniature sheets. Noted mint Royal Mail issues for Planetary Nebula in Norma & Aquila, Seyfert 2 Galaxy in Circinus, Pegasus Galaxy. Also Russia mint issue for Yuri Gagarin, first man in space. A lovely lot ....Price £14.50

SA 92 SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA A fantastic accumulation compromising of only unmounted mint stamps in part sheets, multiples, blocks and singles ranging from older engraved stamps to the more recent. Includes: Nicaragua, (Underprints noted) Chile, Columbia, Argentina, Venezuela, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico & Dominica. This hoard of unsorted unmounted mint stamps, is unchecked for catalogue value and is estimated at over one thousand five hundred (1500) Unm. Mint stamps. For sale at the low price of only.....Price £48

M6 PRINCESS DIANA Worldwide collection. Some 10981 Wedding Issues, also Prince William Birth, including scarcer sheetlets, V SCARCE GUTTER PAIR F.D.C's SIGNED BY THE DESIGNER (stamp designer) also various worldwide 1997 Princess Diana Memorial Issues. The whole collection .....Price £13

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Sheetlet (2 x 3):
1.85€ x 6 portrait of the German composer and operatic impressario, and scene from *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (ring cycle of four operas)

066 May 22, 2013
Centenary of the First Performance of *The Rite of Spring* by Igor Stravinsky
Design: Gueorghui Chichkine.
Engraving: Yves Beaujard.
Printing: recess, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheetlet (2 x 3):
2.55€ scene from *The Rite of Spring*
Note: ballet first performed by the Ballets Russes in Paris on May 29, 1913

067 May 28, 2013
20th anniversary of Monaco's Membership of the United Nations Organisation
Design: Créaphil.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
0.80€ Monaco flag with dates 1993-2013, aerial view of Monaco, United Nations emblem

068 June 5, 2013
15th World Festival of Amateur Theatre
Design: Créaphil.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
0.63€ happy and sad theatrical masks (emblem of Festival)

069 June 5, 2013
Bird
Design: Giuseppe Mazza.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
0.80€ yellow-legged gull, *Larus michahellis*
Note: stamp is inscribed 'SEPAC' as Monaco's contribution to Small European Postal Administrations Cooperation omnibus for 2013

070 June 5, 2013
Exhibition of Insect Art, Monaco
Design: François Guiol.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
1.00€ Monegasque weevil, *Otiorhynchus monoecirupis*, a species recently discovered in Monaco
Note: the Beetles of Monaco & Other Insects exhibition was staged in the Marcel Kroenlein Room at Monaco Exotic Gardens

071 June 8, 2013
World Oceans Day. Sharks
Design: Créaphil, after photographs by 'Walker' (black-tip), 'Buyle' (tiger), 'Brandelet' (baleine) and 'Winram' (great white).
Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste, France.
Miniature sheet: 4 stamps arranged in a se-tenant vertical strip (0.63€ black-tip, 1.05€, 1.05€) and a single (0.63€ tiger shark).
0.63€ Caribbean black-tip shark, *Carcharhinus limbatus*, and diver
0.63€ tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvieri*, and diver
1.05€ baleine (whale) shark, *Rhincodon typus*, and diver
1.05€ great white shark, *Cacharodon carcharias*, and diver
Border: shark (head-on)
Note: issue notes Monaco's Oceanographic Museum

072 July 5, 2013
150th anniversary of the Société des Bains de Mer
Design: after material from Histoire d'Enterprises.
Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste.
Miniature sheet: 4 separately spaced stamps.
0.80€ Casino of Monte Carlo (in style of scatchboard art)
0.80€ emblem '150' set over Casino building (ochre patterned background)
1.05€ Casino building (ochre patterned background)
1.35€ Casino building under floodlights (black background)
Note: the Casino is part of the SBM Resort (hotel and casino) group, which the Monegasque state acquired from Aristotle Onassis in 1966

073 July 10, 2013
21st Grande Bourse, December 1, 2013
Design: Alain Giampaoli.
Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
0.63€ photographic view of Monaco looking towards harbour, coins, stamps and postcards
Note: coin, stamp and postcard fair

074 July 10, 2013
Monacophil 2013 International Stamp Exhibition, Dec 5- 7, 2013
Design: Créaphil.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
0.80€ Monacophil 2013 emblem, in black and red

075 Sept 23, 2013
Centenary of the First Flight Across the Mediterranean Sea, by Roland Garros
Design: Pierre-André Cousin.
Engraving: Pierre Bara.
Printing: recess and litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
1.35€ portrait of Roland Garros, 1888-1918, French aviator and tennis player, and aircraft, over map showing France and Monaco
Note: flight from Fréjus in France to Bizerte in Tunisia on September 23, 1913

076 Sept 23, 2013
Yachts
Design & Engraving: Martin Mörck.
Printing: recess, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheetlet (2 x 5): arranged in 5 horizontally se-tenant pairs.
1.00€ pleasure cruiser, and oblique view of harbour wall in Monaco
1.55€ twin-masted sailing yacht, and aerial view of Castle /Palace of Monaco

077 Oct 9, 2013
Jules Richard, 1863-1945
Design & Engraving: Yves Beaujard.
Printing: recess, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
1.00€ portrait of the founder and Director of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco, and with Prince Albert of Monaco on Arctic voyage

078 Oct 9, 2013
Charles Pathé, 1863-1957
Design & Engraving: Yves Beaujard.
Printing: recess, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
1.85€ portrait of the French cinematographic pioneer, and ciné-projector
Note: Pathé, with his brother Émile, pioneered the industrialisation of sound recording, cinematic newsreels, studio production of films, film distribution through short-term rental, and manufacture of equipment, including film stock and projectors. Charles Pathé retired to live in Monaco in 1929

079 Oct 9, 2013
Centenary of the Crossword Puzzle
Design: Créaphil.
Engraving: Elsa Catelin.
Printing: recess, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
2.78€ pen over crossword puzzle grid in book (no clues)

080 Oct 30, 2013
Christmas 2013
Design: Gueorghui Chichkine.
Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
0.63€ *The Birth of Christ*, after painting by the Russian artist Georgii Schischkin (b1948), showing Holy Family with shepherds and cow

081 Dec 5, 2013
Award of the ASCAT Philatelic Grand Prix to Jacques Rogge
Design: Patrice Mérot.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France. Imprint date '2014'.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
0.95€ portraits of Prince Rainier and Prince Albert II, and the Princely Palace (with ceremony in courtyard)
Note: Rogge, b1942, the Belgian sports administrator and President of the International Olympic Committee, is not portrayed on the stamp

082 Dec 5, 2013
Monacophil 2013 International Stamp Exhibition, 5-7 December 2013
Design: Martin Mörck (first profile, monogram), Thierry Mordant (full-face) or Gueorghui Chichkine (second profile).
Engraving: Martin Mörck (both profiles).
Printing: recess and foil die-stamping, PhilaPoste, France. Imprint date '2014'.
Miniature sheet (4 x 1):
1.00€ profile portait of Prince Albert II
1.00€ full-face portrait of Prince Albert II
1.00€ profile portrait of Prince Albert II
1.00€ monogram of Prince Albert II, in black, gold and red
Note: the exhibition included a display of 100 philatelic rarities at the Philatelic & Numismatic Museum. Colour 'proofs' of the miniature sheet were included in the exhibition folder/programme

070 MONACO
Exhibition of Insect Art

073 MONACO
Grande Bourse

085 MONACO
Films Starring Grace Kelly

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083 Dec 5, 2013
Historic Automobiles
Design: Sergei Ulyanov.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France. Imprint date '2014'.
Sheetlet: 10 stamps.
0.95€ x 5 Sunbeam Alpine (1953-1955) and Monaco waterfront scene
0.95€ x 5 ZIL 111V limousine (only 12 made), and Moscow skyline
Notes: this issue was coupled with a display of cars and stamps at the Monaco Top Cars event. The Sunbeam Alpine was driven by Grace Kelly in the film *To Catch A Thief* (1955). The ZIL 111V was used as official transport for Politburo members and Nikita Khrushchev on foreign visits, and to transport Yuri Gagarin to the Kremlin after his first space flight in 1961. Joint issue with Russia

084 Jan 6, 2014
Monte Carlo International Festival of Circus, January 16-21, 2014
Design: Patrick Moya (poster).
Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
0.83€ tiger (head) surrounded by other circus animals

085 Jan 16, 2014
Films Starring Grace Kelly
Design: Créaphil, from French-language posters.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheetlet (3 x 2):
1.38€ *Country Girl* (*Une Fille de la Province*), directed by George Seaton, 1954: portraits of the stars Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly and William Holden, and lovers' clinch
Sheetlet (3 x 2):
2.40€ *Dial M for Murder* (*Le Crime Était Presque Parfait*), directed by Alfred Hitchcock, 1954: Anthony Dawson creeping up behind Grace Kelly whilst she is on the telephone

086 Jan 30, 2014
International Cat Show, Monte Carlo
Design: Giuseppe Mazza.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
0.61€ white British shorthair cat

087 Jan 30, 2014
Winter Olympic Games, Sochi, Russia
Design: Sophie Beaujard.
Engraving: Yves Beaujard.
Printing: recess, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
1.78€ scenes from bob-sled and alpine skiing events

088 Feb 5, 2014
Monte Carlo Rolex Masters Tennis Tournament
Design: David Davidson.
Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
1.10€ distant view of Centre Court at Monte Carlo Country Club (in style of poster)

089 Feb 20, 2014
International Dog Show, Monte Carlo
Design: Giuseppe Mazza.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
0.87€ bull terrier

090 Feb 20, 2014
47th International Flower Arranging Competition, Fontvieille, June 14-15, 2014
Design: Collette Thruillet.
Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
2.10€ arrangement which was awarded the Golden Insignia in the Dance category (2013 bouquet)

091 March 5, 2014
Monaco Formula One Grand Prix
Design: Michael Verrando.
Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheetlet: 4 stamps arranged in 2 se-tenant pairs.
0.66€ x 2 Gilles Villeneuve, 1950-1982: seated in race car with helmet on
0.66€ x 2 Villeneuve driving Ferrari 312T4 (1979)
Sheetlet: 4 stamps arranged in 2 se-tenant pairs.
0.83€ x 2 Ayrton Senna, 1960-1994: portrait, and red chequered flag
0.83€ x 2 Senna driving McLaren MP4/6 (1991), and black chequered flag

092 March 14, 2014
50th anniversary of the Princess Grace of Monaco Foundation
Design: EPI Communications.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
0.66€ Princess Grace (Grace Kelly, 1929-1982), from photograph, and Foundation logo

093 March 14, 2014
30th anniversary of the Monaco Spring Arts Festival
Design: Olivier Champion.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
1.20€ 30th anniversary emblem

094 April 1, 2014
Centenary of the Inaugural Monte Carlo Air Rally
Design & Engraving: Pierre Albuisson.
Printing: recess and litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (5 x 2).
2.65€ two 1914 monoplanes flying over Monaco, seaplane off coast, map of routes flown by aviators

095 April 1, 2014
Marsupilami
Design: Darguaud-Lomkbard, after comic strip character created by André Franquin (Belgium) in the *Spirou & Fantasio* series.
Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheetlet (2 x 3):
0.83€ x 6 Marsupilami (fictional animal species) carrying his young relatives on his long tail, in tropical location

096 April 1, 2014
The Nude in Art
Design: Créaphil.
Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheetlet: 10 stamps arranged in 5 se-tenant pairs.
1.65€ sketch for *Diane au Bain* by Italian artist Carlo Maratta (or Maratti), 1635-1713
1.65€ finished painting *Diane au Bain* (*Diana Bathing*) by Maratta

097 April 30, 2014
Evolution of Public Transport in Monaco
Design: Richard Seren.
Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 8 (2 x 4).
0.59€ electric tram (early 20th century) and modern coach

098 May 7, 2014
Europa 2014. Musical Instrument
Design: Stefano Morri.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
0.83€ mandolin, and folk dancers outside Princely Palace

099 May 14, 2014
Ancient Fiefs of the Grimaldi Family. Carladès Cantaliens, Auvergne
Design: André Lavergne.
Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste, France.
Miniature sheet:
1.65€ House of the Prince of Monaco in Vic-sur-Cère
2.10€ general view of Rocher de Carlat
Border: coat of arms of the Grimaldis (Monaco princely dynasty) and map of Cantal region marking Vic-sur-Cère and Rocher de Carlat in the Auvergne region of France

100 May 30, 2014
Bicentenary of the First Treaty of Paris
Design: Cyril de la Patallière.
Engraving: Claude Jumulet.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5).
2.10€ portrait of Prince Honoré IV of Monaco, 1758-1818 (reigned 1814-1818), and scroll with treaty heading
Note: the Treaty, concluded on May 30, 1814, brought a temporary end to the Napoleonic Wars. Under its provisions, Monaco was placed under the protection of France but retained its sovereignty. A second Treaty of Paris was signed in 1815

101 May 30, 2014
FIFA Football World Cup Finals 2014, Brazil
Design: Alain Giampaoli.
Printing: litho, PhilaPoste, France.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 10 (2 x 5). Stamp is circular, set within a rectangular perforated label.
0.98€ footballers, flags of 16 of the 32 finalists, and of Brazil

102 June 10, 2014
Sharks
Design: Thierry Mordant.
Printing: gravure, PhilaPoste, France.
Miniature sheet: designs composite with border.
0.66€ black-tip shark, *Carcharhinus melanopterus*, and diver
1.10€ hammerhead shark, *Sphyrna mokmarran*, and diver
1.65€ grey reef shark, *Carcharhinus amblyrhunchos*
Note: issue notes Monaco's Oceanographic Museum

071 MONACO
World Oceans Day. Sharks

082 MONACO
Monacophil 2013

091 MONACO
Monaco Grand Prix

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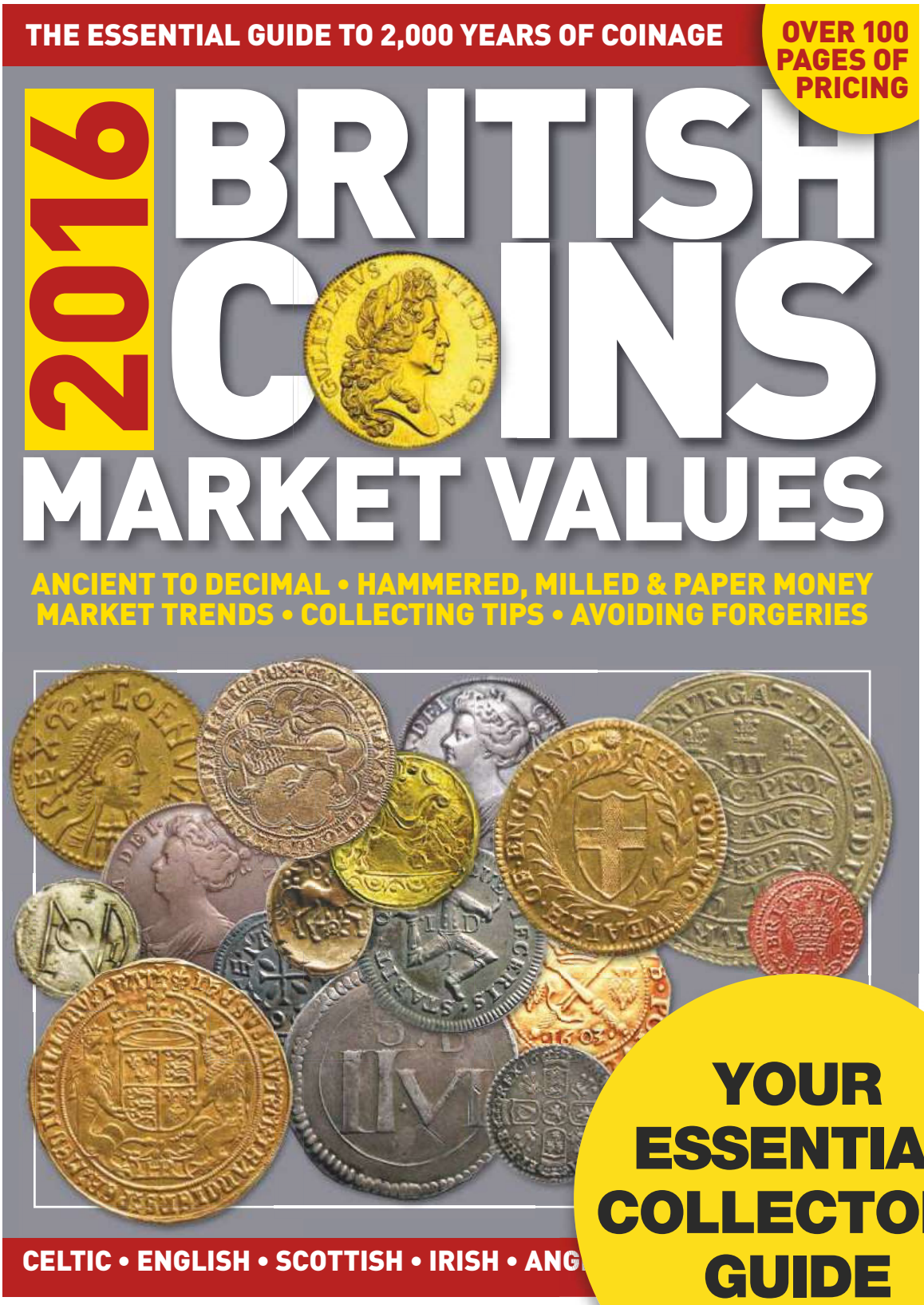

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POLAND
(last listed in April 2015)

103 Oct 31, 2014
Stars of Stage & Screen
Design: Marzanna Dabrowska, from photographs.
Printing: litho, PWPW.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 12 (4 x 3).
1.75zl Tola Mankiewiczówna, 1900-1985, opera, operetta, cabaret and film star, broadcaster
2.35zl Antoni Fertner, 1874-1959, film actor, shown as middle-aged man in hat
4.20zl Leocadia Halama, stage name Loda Halama, 1911-1996, dancer and choreographer, photographic model, actress
Miniature sheet (3 x 1):
1.75zl, 2.35zl, 4.20zl, designs as sheet stamps

104 Nov 14, 2014
Christmas 2014
Design: Agnieszka Sanciewicz.
Printing: gravure, PWPW.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 50.
2.35zl *The Holy Family* (stained glass window)
5.20zl *Adoration of the Kings* (stained glass window)

105 Nov 21, 2014
50th anniversary of the Birth of William Shakespeare, 1564-1616
Design: Aleksandra Pietrzak.
Printing: gravure, PWPW.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 12 (4 x 3).
4.20zl the drowning of Ophelia, from Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*

106 Nov 28, 2014
600th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Poland & Turkey
Design: Maciej Jedrysik.
Printing: litho, PWPW.
Miniature sheet: design composite with border.
5.00zl reciprocal ambassadorial delegations on the road and being received at court in the 15th century
Note: joint issue with Turkey

107 Dec 19, 2014
World Youth Day
Design: Agnieszka Sanciewicz.
Printing: litho, PWPW. Perf 11.25 with elliptical cut-outs on horizontal sides (1.75zl) or vertical sides (5zl).
Sheet stamp: sheet of 12, square format.
1.75zl young people formed in a circle, WYD emblem, gold and grey-blue
Sheetlet (2 x 3): 6 stamps, rectangular format.
5zl skyine of city of Cracow, WYD emblem, gold and silver-blue
Note: WYD is a multiple international event for young people organised by bishops in each diocese of the Catholic Church on Palm Sunday; the reason for the December release date is unclear

108 Jan 7, 2015
23rd Grand Finale of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity
Design: Magdalena Jablonska, Catherine Sasin, Gawel Andrzejewski and Jerzy Owsiak.
Printing: litho, PWPW.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 9 (3 x 3).
2.35zl heart with inscriptions (emblem)
Note: the climax of an annual multiple-venue Christmas fund-raising event and telethon (in aid of medical charities and health care) held by Polish people throughout the world

109 Feb 5, 2015
Greetings. Valentines
Design: Marzanna Dabrowska.
Printing: litho and screen-printing, PWPW. Perf 11½.
Sheetlet: 6 heart-shaped stamps set within rectangular perforated labels.
2.35zl x 6 ruby (gemstone) as heart, with inscription 'Cochem Cie' (I Love You)
Note: the screen-printing simulates the stone-cutting and glittering effect of the gem

110 Feb 12, 2015
Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer, 1865-1940
Design: Aleksandra Pietrzak.
Printing: litho, PWPW.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 12 (4 x 3).
1.75zl portrait drawing of the writer and journalist
Note: born at Ludzmierz, then in Hungary, known for his poems about the Tatra Mountains; moved to Warsaw after World War I

111 Feb 21, 2015
Witkacy (Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz), 1885-1939
Design: Agnieszka Sanciewicz.
Printing: litho, PWPW.
Miniature sheet: design composite with border.
5.20zl full-face self-portrait photograph by the artist and photographer, and montage of details from visionary, metaphysical and surreal artworks
Note: also a writer, and explorer of the philosophy of art

112 March 6, 2015
Easter. Decorated Easter Eggs
Design: Agnieszka Sanciewicz.
Printing: gravure, PWPW.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 100.
2.35zl decorated egg from Oppeln (Silesia)
5.20zl decorated egg from Kurpie (Masuria) and pattern

113 March 20, 2015
Organ Transplantation
Design: Maciej Jedrysik (cartoon silhouette).
Printing: gravure, PWPW.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 50.
1.75zl human figure with arm across his torso placing a 'heart' (the hand) on chest

114 March 31, 2015
Polish Cinema. *Ida*
Design: Alexander Pietrzak.
Printing: litho, PWPW.
Sheetlet: 8 stamps and 1 label.
2.35zl celluloid filmstrip frame with coloured inscription of country name and '*Ida*'
Note: film made in 2013, directed by Paweł Pawlikowski and written by Pawlikowski and Rebecca Lenkiewicz. Issue prompted by winning the Academy Award (Oscar) for Best Foreign Language Film, 2014

115 April 3, 2015
Tadeusz Kantor, 1915-1990
Design: Alexander Pietrzak.
Printing: gravure, PWPW.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 12.
1.75zl artwork of the artist, actor, theatrical set designer and director, smoking
Note: the design is reported to represent Kantor directing himself in role as teacher in *Dead Class*

116 April 7, 2015
75th anniversary of the Katyn Massacres, April-May 1940
Design: Marzanna Dabrowska.
Printing: litho and screen-printed, PWPW.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 9.
1.75zl shattered Polish army badge, with rope around the 'neck' of the eagle
Note: commemorates the death of 22,000 Poles, mostly in the Forest of Katyn, but also in prison camps, on territory occupied by the USSR after the German defeat of Poland. The victims included members of the interned Polish Officer Corps, and police force. The killings were ordered by Lavrentiy Beria, chief of the Soviet secret police, and authorised by Soviet premier Joseph Stalin, though the USSR originally blamed them on the Germans

117 April 27, 2015
World Youth Day
Design: Agnieszka Sanciewicz.
Printing: gravure, PWPW. Perf 11½ x 11¼.
Sheetlet (3 x 3):
1.75zl x 9 Pope John Paul II (Polish-born Karol Wojtyla), 1920-1995, WYD emblem
Sheetlet (3 x 2):
5zl outline of Poland infilled with text 'Was Jesu Nadzifja'/'In You There Is Hope', WYD emblem

118 May 5, 2015
Europa 2015. Old Toy
Design: Maciej Jedrysik.
Printing: litho, PWPW.
Sheet stamp: sheets of 12 (4 x 3).
5zl toy figure made from chestnuts and matchsticks

RUSSIA
(last listed in Sept 2014)

119 April 18, 2014
50th anniversary of the Liberation of Russia, White Russia & Ukraine from Fascism
Design: S Ulyanovsk.
Printing: litho, Goznak.
Miniature sheet: design composite with border.
50r mother greeting her son, who is in army uniform
Border: Red Army officer and tank, with civilians, and battle plans
Note: Ukraine, occupied areas of Russia and White Russia (Belarus) were liberated from German control in 1943-1944. Joint issue with Belarus

120 April 18, 2014
History of Russian Aviation. Pilots & World War II Aerial Combat
Design: V Beltyukov (drawings).
Printing: litho, Goznak.
Sheetlet (2 x 4): 7 stamps and 1 label.
15r air combat (Su-2 Soviet fighter and German fighter), portrait of pilot

103 POLAND
Stars of Stage & Screen

120 RUSSIA
Pilots & World War II Aerial Combat

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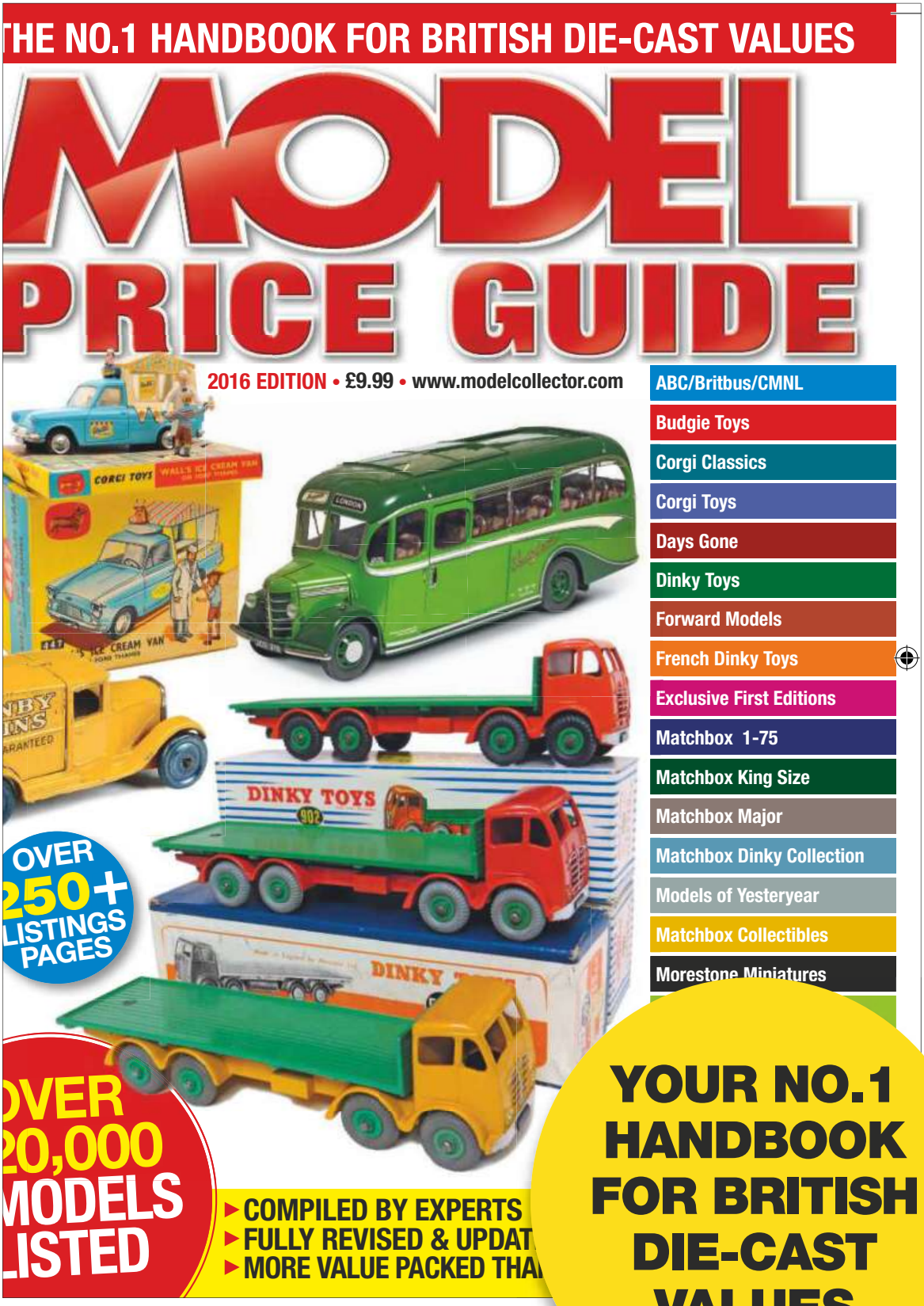

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Ekaterina Zelenko, 1916-1941
Label: inscription
Sheetlet (2 x 4): 7 stamps and 1 label.
15r air combat (La-5 Soviet aircraft and German bombers), portrait of pilot Boris Kovzan, 1922-1985
Label: inscription
Sheetlet (2 x 4): 7 stamps and 1 label.
15r air combat (R-40 Soviet aircraft and German bombers), portrait of pilot Aleksei Hlobystov
Label: inscription
Sheetlet (2 x 4): 7 stamps and 1 label.
15r air combat (Mig-3 Soviet aircraft and German bombers), portrait of pilot Piotr Eremeev, 1911-1941
Label: inscription
Sheetlet (2 x 4):
15r x 2 aerial combat and Zelenko (positions 1,8)
15r x 2 aerial combat and Kovzan (positions 2,7)
15r x 2 aerial combat and Hlobystov (positions 3,6)
15r x 2 aerial combat and Eremeev (positions 4,5)
Border: pink clouds

SAMOA
(last listed in Oct 2015)

121 Aug 28, 2014
Third Annual Conference of the Small Islands Developing States, Samoa, September 2014
Design: Alison Dittko. All designs incorporate a globe emblem.
Printing: litho, BDT.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 54 (6 x 9) comprising 3 each of 18 designs.
50c flag of Samoa
50c great barracuda, *Sphyraena barracuda*
50c loggerhead sea turtle, *Caretta caretta*
50c Barbour's seahorse, *Hippocampus barbouri*
50c cut-throat eel, *Dysommina rugosa*
50c view of a coral reef
50c view of Samoan coastline
50c sunset at Fagamalo
50c sunset at Savaii
50c Lemafa Peak
50c stone seawall at Lalamanu
50c sailing yacht at sea
50c cruise ship
50c boat at sea
50c sea kayaking
50c paddle-boarding
Miniature sheet (3 x 2):
$3 flag of Samoa
$3 view of Samoan coastline
$3 sunset at Fagamalo
$3 sunset at Savaii
$3 Lemafa Peak
$3 stone seawall at Lalamanu
Border: national flags and portions of maps
Miniature sheet (3 x 2):
$3.90 flag of Samoa
$3.90 great barracuda, *Sphyraena barracuda*
$3.90 loggerhead sea turtle, *Caretta caretta*
$3.90 Barbour's seahorse, *Hippocampus barbouri*
$3.90 cut-throat eel, *Dysommina rugosa*
$3.90 view of a coral reef
Border: national flags and portions of maps
Miniature sheet (3 x 2):
$4 flag of Samoa
$4 sailing yacht at sea
$4 cruise ship
$4 boat at sea
$4 sea kayaking
$4 paddle-boarding
Border: national flags and portions of maps
Note: the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) is a United Nations organisation

Note: the intervening Samoan Participation in the Commonwealth Games set was listed in March 2015

122 Nov 19, 2014
United Nations World Toilet Day
Design: Alison Dittko.
Printing: litho, BDT.
Sheet stamps: sheets of 16 (4 x 4), arranged in 4 se-tenant strips of 4.
$2.00 new garden toilets, Apia; inscription 'Toilets = Better Health/2.5 billion people lack access to toilets'
$2.00 new garden toilets, Apia; inscription 'Toilets = Higher Income/can't solve poverty without sanitation'
$2.00 new garden toilets, Apia; inscription 'Toilets = Better Education/no other invention has saved more lives'
$2.00 new garden toilets, Apia; inscription 'Toilets = Higher Social Status/best investment in a community's future'

123 Dec 5, 2014
Centenary of Great War I
Design: Alison Dittko, from photographs.
Printing: litho, BDT.
Sheet stamps:
$2.00 New Zealand ships off Samoa during World War I (with smoke trails)
$2.70 New Zealand naval officers outside German residency, placing a demand for surrender, August 27, 1914
$3 New Zealand Expeditionary Force troops in western Samoa in 1914 (marching down street)
$3.90 New Zealand troops landing in Samoa, August 1914 (coming ashore from boats)
Miniature sheet (3 x 1):
$2.50 New Zealand forces preparing to annexe German colony of Samoa for Britain (rowing boats at wharf)
$2.50 New Zealand forces bound for Samoa, 1914 (aboard troopship)
$2.50 New Zealand troops disembarking during the annexation process (landing mules from boat)

SOUTH AFRICA
(last listed in July 2015)

124 Dec 5, 2014
4th UNI World Indaba 2014, Cape Town, December 7-10, 2014
Design: Anande Nöthling.
Printing: litho, Cartor. Non-denominated.
Miniature sheet:
B5 (5.95r) congress emblem with inscription 'including you!'
Border: hand holding airmail letter
Note: UNI Global Union is an international trade union federation for skills and services, drawing together national and regional trade unions. Distribution of this issue was delayed by a postal workers strike

Note: intervening issues were listed in July 2015

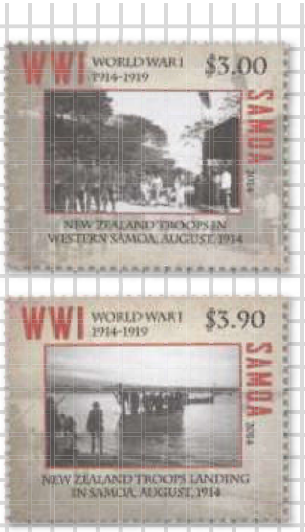
125 April 2, 2015
8th World Congress of Nephrology, Cape Town, April 3-7, 2015
Design: Marli Joubert.
Printing: litho, Cartor. Die cut perf 15½. Non-denominated, inscribed 'International Small Letter'.
Self-adhesive sheetlet: 5 separately spaced stamps.
- (7r) visit your doctor: woman carrying baby
- (7r) exercise: man (with water bottle and apple) pulling weights
- (7r) healthy diet: woman with shopping bag of fresh foods and bread
- (7r) stop smoking: blue bird telling man (who is making a cup of tea) to quit smoking his pipe
- (7r) limit alcohol: young man and woman drinking small glasses of wine by candlelight

Border: inscription 'Prevent chronic kidney disease through healthy living'

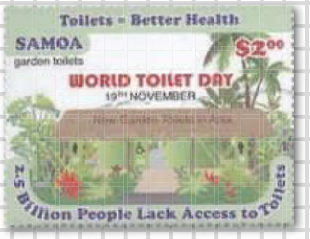
126 April 4, 2015
International Firefighters' Day
Design: Jaco Botha, student at the Tshwane University of Technology.
Printing: litho, Southern Colour Print, New Zealand. Die-cut perf 12 x 12¼. Non-denominated, inscribed 'Standard Postage'.
Self-adhesive sheetlet (2 x 4): 8 separately spaced stamps.
- Dennis fire engine of 1920
- modern fire engine with turntable ladder
- firefighters dousing flames using hose
- firefighter riding with stretcher on hoist (from unseen helicopter) in mountain rescue mission
- firefighter team of four carrying a stretcher
- firefighters attempting to gain access to overturned vehicle
- firefighters in dinghy assisting swimmer in trouble
- firefighters in school classroom on public education programme

Border: firefighters with hoses, and flames
Reverse of sheetlet: 'Fire safety at home' advice
Note: issue date not confirmed

127 June 26, 2015
60th anniversary of the South African Freedom Charter
Design: Cyril Maphumula.
Printing: litho.
Miniature sheet: design composite with border.
5r cheering people with flag (silhouette)
Note: the Freedom Charter was adopted at the Congress of the People held in Kliptown (now part of Soweto), Johannesburg, on June 26, 1955



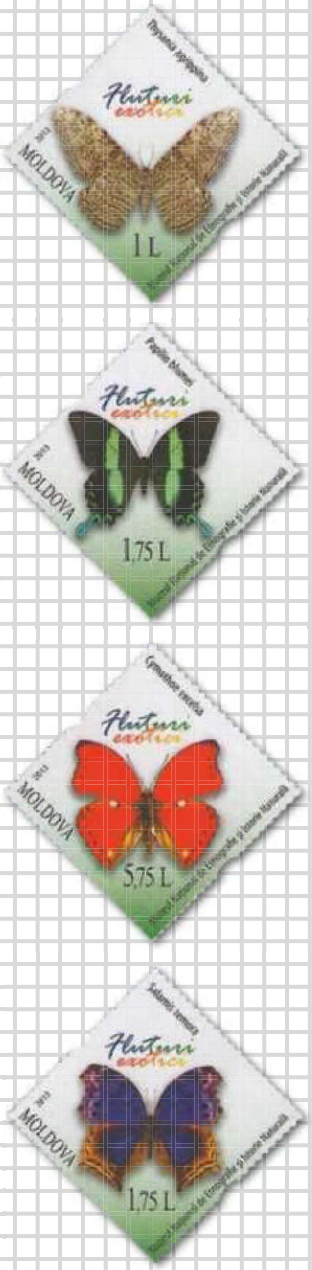
123 SAMOA
Centenary of World War I



122 SAMOA
World Toilet Day

124 SOUTH AFRICA
World Indaba

127 SOUTH AFRICA
Freedom Charter



061 BUTTERFLIES
Exotic Butterflies & Moths, Moldova

104 STAINED GLASS
Christmas 2014, Poland

A HANDY CROSS-REFERENCE TO ACCOMPANY THIS MONTH'S NEW ISSUE GUIDE

The most popular collecting themes are listed in alphabetical order, with the reference numbers of all the relevant entries in this month's New Issue Guide, guiding you quickly to the new stamps which most interest you. Personalities are given a separate listing for your convenience. A single stamp issue will often be cross-referenced under more than one category.

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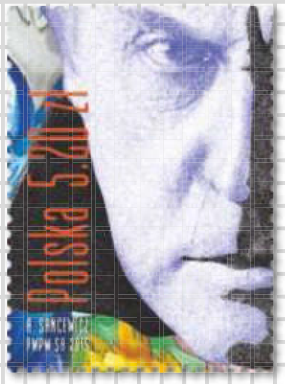

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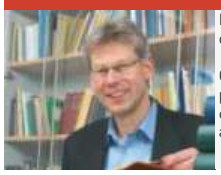

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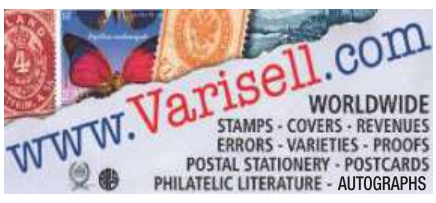

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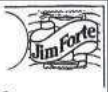

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One good turn...

When the Serbian government needed a financial favour from a man whose stamp collection had *almost* everything, it knew the way to his heart

Report by John Winchester

Philipp von Ferrary's worldwide stamp collection famously contained most of the great rarities of philately. But one item puzzled the philatelic world for years.

This was an imperforate *tête-bêche* pair of Serbia's 1872 Prince Milan Obrenovic IV 1p yellow newspaper stamp. It was the only such pair known, with the two stamps suspiciously out of alignment. How had 'the stamp king' come by it? The truth is almost stranger than fiction.

Ferrary was not only a prodigious spender but also a prolific traveller, always prepared to go the extra mile for an elusive stamp, and in 1885 one trip inadvertently took him right into the heart of the brief but violent Serbo-Bulgarian War. Near the town of Pirot, the stagecoach in which he was travelling encountered a Serbian patrol, which interrogated him as to why he was there.

Ferrary's story of being on a hunt for rare stamps cut little ice with the sergeant in charge, who was convinced he had unmasked a Bulgarian spy and ordered him to be shot.

Fortunately, the hapless soldier detailed for the task, one Luka Stefanovic, took pity on Ferrary. After marching him into the woods, he fired twice into the air and allowed him to make his escape.

Ferrary never forgot the soldier who had spared his life, and later returned to Serbia to track down Stefanovic and reward him for his humanity. He even adopted Serbian nationality, befriended the ruling Obrenovic dynasty and sometimes helped them out financially.

ABOVE: Unique tête-bêche pair of the Serbia 1872 1p yellow newspaper stamp, printed specially for Philipp von Ferrary in 1894

In 1894 the Serbian government asked him for a loan to help extend the railway network, and it had a philatelic sweetener up its sleeve: a special *tête-bêche* pair was created just for him, printed on the edge of a sheet of remaindered 1872 stamps. ■

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Saluting Salote

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It all depends upon that stamp dealer's/auction's business model. UPA buys and sells globally but if for example the nearest stamp dealer you approach only sells British stamps to a small market place then there is a strong possibility that he/she may be fully stocked already – so that if a price is proffered to you there is an increased likelihood of your receiving a lower offer as your collection, or part of your collection may be 'traded on' to a larger dealer. Worse still, other unrelated areas of your collection may be neglected or not valued in any offer you receive.

If you consign your collection to auction and it is unsuitable or too time-consuming for that auction to 'break' it into smaller lots – then there is a very strong probability that you will be paying an auction to sell your stamps to a stamp dealer WHO could afford to pay you up to 36% more than you will receive. Don't forget most auctions charge the buyer of your collection up to twice the commission, or more, that they charge you.

It doesn't make sense for you to pay an auction to sell your stamps to a stamp dealer, when – if you handle the transaction wisely – you can receive the up to 36% more for yourself.

What happens when you ask UPA to make you an offer?

First we ask you to tell us about your collection *and we listen*. Then we ask you how much you know about the market for your type of collection? At this stage we add to your knowledge, informing you of current conditions you may be unaware of. Then we discuss whether we may be well placed to assist you and how that may be achieved.

Providing your collection has sufficient potential we may offer to visit without charge or obligation, or we will offer to uplift your collection from your home at our expense, insured in transit (and whilst in our care) free of charge. If you are situated in mainland UK and your collection is too bulky for you to pack, provided your collection is valuable enough, we may even provide a free packing service in addition to shipping to our office.

Now we assess your collection and offer you the choice of agreeing a price that will be paid immediately – or of our bidding against other dealers so that you know you are achieving the best possible price.

UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL:

Dear Folk at UPA,

I've dealt with the public for 37 + years, and as both a consumer, and a businessman, I have created huge numbers of orders from all over the world from a complete range of suppliers from all aspects of our daily lives.

But I don't believe I have ever encountered such sensitivity, such kind thought, such understanding as I have with you in our initial meeting, our subsequent successful transaction, and now this.

I recall well the item you highlight, and realise that this one item has such colossal personal value, I could never part with it.

It has been an absolute pleasure dealing with yourself, and I am more than willing for you to use this e-mail as commendation to others who may be thinking of disposing of their collection.

Many, many thanks for a memorable experience, and I will try to emulate your thought and care in my own business sphere.

Yours sincerely

D. E. B. Bath, UK

National number please contact: Andrew McGavin or John Cowell on 01451 861 111 number please contact: Andrew McGavin or John Cowell on 01451 861 111

Guarantee: We guarantee that you will never be under pressure at any stage of the process; you will always be in control. E-mail or Contact UPA now: 01451 861 111

Why can UPA often pay considerably more?

We often buy at auction. That auction takes the **"up to 36% more" that we pay that YOU DO NOT RECEIVE.**

However – there is another equally important reason …. namely **The UPA Business Model.** Unlike most dealers we believe that if an item is not selling, then it must be too expensive. This is the reason why when you receive our quarterly catalogues of up to 20,671 different lots (you can request a sample one free) … you will find that if an item has been previously unsold **we actually tell you.** Furthermore each time an item is unsold we reduce the price and **we keep on reducing the price – until finally the lot sells** or it is given away. In practice good material sells quickly whilst other material finally finds its own price and sells. This is the reason why there are always 1,000's of new offers at UPA …. and part of the reason why we are usually in a position to pay you more and pay you immediately.

Furthermore, unlike some, UPA has not one but **4 different selling systems** selling 95% of stamps to collectors, so that when a collection is purchased the most valuable/interesting stamps go into our Universal Philatelic Auctions (a NEW UPA UK record 2,031 different bidders in the last auction). Intermediate/lower-priced sets/singles enter our Omniphil and Avon Approvals systems (established 56 years and over 1,250 regular collector clients), inexpensive stamps enter the Avon Mixtures system and eBay (universalphilatelic) for surplus material. All of which is why UPA can purchase and pay for almost literally anything…..

WHAT DOES UPA BUY?

UPA literally purchases almost any country collection worth £250 upwards from sets and singles to classics and entire British, British Empire, Europe and World collections. At the moment UPA has **exceptional demand for original collections and GB & British Empire** in particular.

What do I do next?

You contact UPA and talk to one of our friendly Team who will help to inform you so that you can decide how to progress matters …. there is no charge and no obligation …. **please CONTACT UPA NOW.**

Remember, if you are selling a collection …. collectors buy the stamps they are missing; this is why dealers exist. Most intact collections offered at auction sell to dealers. **Save commissions and uncertainty by contacting UPA today.** We guarantee that you will never be under pressure at any stage of the process, you will always be in control. **CONTACT our friendly UPA Team NOW: 01451 861 111**

ANDREW PROMOTING PHILATELY ON THE ALAN TITCHMARSH SHOW ITV

If you'd like to discuss the sale of your collection please contact Elaine or Andrew on 01451 861111

Visit www.upastampauctions.co.uk when you want to buy or sell stamps.

UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

4 The Old Coalyard, West End Northleach, Glos. GL54 3HE UK

Tel: 01451 861111 • Fax: 01451 861297

www.upastampauctions.co.uk • sellSM@upastampauctions.co.uk

REQUEST MY 'TIPS OF THE TRADE' FREE BOOKLET

Philately Understood

WHAT EVERYBODY OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT COLLECTING AND BUYING AND SELLING STAMPS

Advance Notification of upcoming NEW 'Stamp Tips of the Trade' + 'Case Studies'

Some *Plain Talk* about the simple business of stamps which often seems complicated

Why is my business publishing this information?

I can remember the day I found my Father's stamp collection in the bottom drawer of the bureau in the dining room more than 45 years ago. Aged 11, I was excited travelling the world through his stamps. In those days every school had a stamp club and mine was no exception. I took the collection to school and joined the stamp club. When Mr. Armitage (the Chemistry Teacher who ran the club) asked what stamps we collected I said "Wurttemberg" – much to everybody's surprise. In fact they were from Austria and the page was misclassified. They were those imperforate 1920's Austrian Newspaper stamps which fascinated me and as everybody now knows are hardly worth anything … but probably they helped me get started in stamps.

Over following years I found little help in understanding stamps, so much had to be learned the hard-way, which is why my company UPA publishes what I dare to hope are useful articles about collecting and buying and selling stamps. It is my hope that these prove valuable to you and that we may serve you if you decide to contact us …

There are several different types of stamp businesses

In fact no two stamp dealers are alike. What a truism that is. Once in Amsterdam I made the mistake of admitting to the owner of the stamp shop I was visiting that I was a dealer. In almost perfect English **"We Don't sell to Dealers"** and he turned his back. So did I - as I left his shop. But over the years I discovered that the only way to succeed in stamps was to create a business of stamp selling systems and join them all together. This is what allows us to handle stamps from literally every single country in the world. Recently in coming articles which I shall call ***'Case Studies'*** the strength of this business model has become apparent.

"We Don't sell to Dealers" and he turned his back.

How can UPA help you?

If You are Collecting You can Request …

1. **Auction**: Take £55 OFF Your 1st purchase (UK clients + selected countries) Offer: Request your Next Free UPA auction catalogue worth £15 comprising 20,000+/- lots from £'s to £1,000's. Apart from £55 OFF you'll benefit from UPA's Unique combination of features to collector colleagues – NO Buyer's Premium – Reducing Estimate System till sold or given away – All lots Guaranteed - Modest shipping + Free Insurance. **Request now – coupons by magazine Index**
2. **Approvals:** Take £25 OFF Your 1st Approvals purchase (UK clients + selected countries): Individually identified and priced stamp selections of stamps from most countries in the world sent to you on approval. You select those you want and return the rest with payment. Established 56 years. **Request now – coupons by magazine Index**
3. **OFF-paper WORLD / Country Mixtures** – Unit priced – buy those you want, return those you don't – UK clients SEND £6.45 – over 100,000 bags supplied. **Request now – coupons by magazine Index**
4. **On-line?** E-Bay clients – hundreds of lots starting 1p auctions though to £20,000 collections on-line. Visit www.upastampauctions.co.uk for links to eBay account ID's: upa-global, universal-philatelic, upa-collectables, upa-online
5. **PRIVATE TREATY:** A new UPA selling system – valuable collections sold / matched to clients on a commission basis. Modest fees, No sale, No charge. British Empire collections required to £250,000, GB collections to £500,000, Collections / Postal History / Foreign from £2,000 upwards

If You are Selling Please Contact Andrew / Elaine at UPA:

Valuable Collections wanted: We can use and have clients who require GB collections to £500,000, British Empire / British Commonwealth to £250,000 and Foreign required. **Telephone, Fax or E-mail now.**

Why does UPA make Promotional Offers?

Unlike most other stamp companies we believe in giving before hoping to receive. We believe in proving to YOU that your trust in dealing with UPA is well founded. Proving to YOU in advance of asking you to purchase from us is much of our model. Most collector colleagues stay with UPA which is why we can make you such an extraordinary offer. 2,031 different collectors (and some dealers) bid in our latest auction, 88 % of whom won lots. Without pernicious buyer's premium average regular collector bidders save £250 a year at UPA. ***Client loyalty is the reason why we can offer*** 1st time buyers aged over 18 (!) £55 OFF your 1st auction purchase whether you spend more than £55 or not. **Request now – coupons by magazine Index**

Advance Notification of NEW 'Stamp Tips of the Trade' and 'Case Studies' to follow

We're going to be publishing more articles in the coming months. If you would like to know more about how my company may serve you … please use the coupons beside the Index in this **Stamp Magazine ...** if you are really interested please do it **NOW, don't forget to Request My 'Tips of the Trade FREE booklet too ! Please contact us in any way today**

Looking forward to hearing from you.
Thank you for reading

Andrew McGavin Managing Director UPA

Andrew Promoting Philately
Alan Titchmarsh Show ITV

Contact us in any way today

Universal Philatelic Auctions (SM11): 4, The Old Coalyard, West End, Northleach, Glos, GL54 3HE,
Telephone: 01451 861111, Fax: 01451 861297
E-Mail: info@upastampauctions.co.uk
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